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SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1904. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR.

PART TWO.

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

EXPECT GREAT THINGS OF THEM.

Russians Look for Gallant Conduct from Their Famous Regiment of Rough Riders.

HOW COSSACKS ARE MUSTERED

Bash-Barouks of the Sultan Are More Like Them Than Any Other Military Power.

Special Correspondence.
T. PETERSBURG, March 26.—Great things are expected by the Russians of their Cossack cavalry in the impending land conflicts in the far east. In fact, it is on this arm of the service that the czar places his

ed, and the Cossack knows how to ride from infancy. At the age of three he is placed astride a horse in the courtyard of his father's dwelling, and at five he rides through the village street and exercises with his young comrades. At twelve he is part of the beast which carries him. At the age of nineteen he joins his regiment and takes the oath. Between that age and twenty-two his time is occupied with instruction and home service. From twenty-two to thirty-four he serves in the second division of the army and is liable to service away from home, being a full fledged soldier. From thirty-four to thirty-nine he is in the reserve and remains at home on furlough, being called out only to fill gaps in the second division in the event of war. Mobilization of the Cossack forces not in active service is easily accomplished. A courier of the czar dashes through the Cossack villages with a red flag in the daytime and a red lantern at night, and the Scotch clansman rode the mountains with the flaming cross, crying, "The emperor calls you—mobilization!" and every Cossack hurries at once to the nearest rendezvous, taking his horse and equipment with him.

The Cossack in his own wild way has the greatest devotion to the czar. He is not bound by the rules of discipline which fetter the Russian line, but he possesses the same unquestioning spirit of obedience which characterizes the regulars. He fights more in the Asiatic than the European style, on the principle that "he who fights and runs away will live to fight another day," but he runs away met-

Baron Nowack's Strange "Prophet Plant."

Austrian Scientist's Discovery Was Laughed at for Fifteen Years, but Has at Last Come to be Taken Seriously, on Account of the Occurrence of Predicted Earthquakes, Storms and Volcanic Eruptions.

LONDON, April 1.—Some day the romance of Baron Fridland von Nowack and his plant may be added to the stories of Franklin and his kite, Newton and his apple, Edison and the needle that suggested the phonograph, and Watt and the lid of the tea-kettle that supplied the idea for the steam engine.

The baron's plant, which is indigenous to India, has been known to fame much longer than the good baron himself, and had a reputation of being a respectable, well-meaning sort of a plant, barring a few eccentricities to which no great importance was attached. The baron was the first to be impressed seriously by those eccentricities. He made a thoroughly thorough study of them and became finally convinced that he had made a great discovery. That was years ago, and was only the beginning of the story. From that day to this the Austrian nobleman has devoted most of his time and most of his income in trying to establish for his plant an international position as an official weather prophet.

My own private means, which were not large—\$50,000 or thereabouts—on the work, and I am compelled to appeal for public support to enable me to carry it on and make it of public utility. But I ask no more than will suffice for that."

MADE IT HIS LIFE STUDY.

The baron is thoroughly democratic in spirit and makes no use of his title, which is an hereditary one, preferring to be addressed as "professor," to which he is entitled by virtue of a degree conferred on him in Vienna for his proficiency in chemistry. For 20 years he has been studying the manifestations of the weather plant under varying conditions and investigating meteorological phenomena that he might correctly interpret the messages of its vegetable condenser.

He was 25 when the plant—or rather seeds of it—first came under his notice. They are a bright coral red with a shiny black spot at the top and about the size of a pea. He bought some of a hawk at Ostend who was selling them to be strung as beads for feminine adornment. He planted the seeds and under his careful nurture one of them developed into a healthy plant. Watching it closely from day to day he was surprised at the frequent changes in the position of the leaflets. After having long kept a systematic and exact record of these movements he found, he says, that they had an unmistakable reference to meteorological conditions not actually taking place, but about to take place within certain periods of time and within certain distances of the plant. Thus he ascertained that the upward motion of a pair of leaflets prognosticated fine weather within a period of from 12 to 72 hours, and within a radius of 100 miles; that a downward motion similarly indicated a cloudy sky and rain; that an irregular position of the leaflets reveals an increase of electricity in the air, which, when the leaves roll up, portends a thunderstorm or fog in the direction in which the leaves are pointing. Also that when the leaflets assume an oblique position they are advance storm signals for the same time and distance.

Assured by these observations that the plant was a weather prophet to be depended on, he resigned a good position he held under the government that he might devote all his time to studying and interpreting the signs by which Abrus precatorius revealed its prophetic powers.

INTERESTING KING EDWARD.

The accuracy of his weather prognostications thus made attracted the attention of the Austrian government and brought him under royal notice. At the Jubilee Industrial exhibition held in Vienna in 1883 the Crown Prince Rudolph introduced him to the then Prince of Wales, now King Edward VII, who suggested that he should carry on his researches at Kew Gardens, London.

To London accordingly he came next year, and was installed with some of his weather plants at Kew Gardens. He fondly imagined that under such distinguished royal patronage he would find everything smooth sailing, but he struck a snag almost as soon as he set to work. He wished to conduct his observations by night as well as by day. To his amazement his proposition was received with horror and indignation by the authorities at Kew Gardens. It was contrary to all precedent that anybody should voluntarily undertake to observe the weather without receiving extra remuneration for it. Besides, it would necessitate the employment of some additional attendants to keep watch while he worked, and that would entail an expenditure of money not covered by any of the grants enjoyed by Kew Gardens. He was informed that a special act of parliament would be necessary before he could work his weather plants at night. So he had to give up that point.

PREDICTED A FIREDAMP EXPLOSION AND WAS SAVED.

Nevertheless, he made some progress in his researches at Kew. The movements of the petioles on which the leaflets grow claimed his attention, and he satisfied himself that they were due to those influences which cause earthquakes, volcanoes and explosions of firedamp in collieries.

On Sept. 26, 1889, he states, Abrus precatorius warned him that between Oct. 14 and 18 these conditions would obtain in Staffordshire, and he brought permission to publish his prognostication that steps might be taken to avert a catastrophe. But red tape again interposed a veto. There was no precedent that would sanction such an extraordinary procedure.

At Langton, Staffordshire, on Oct. 16 occurred an explosion of firedamp that caused a loss of nearly 100 lives. Where at one of the baron's official superiors declared later that "the blooming weather plant was right, after all." The baron said something to the point about the responsibility that rested upon

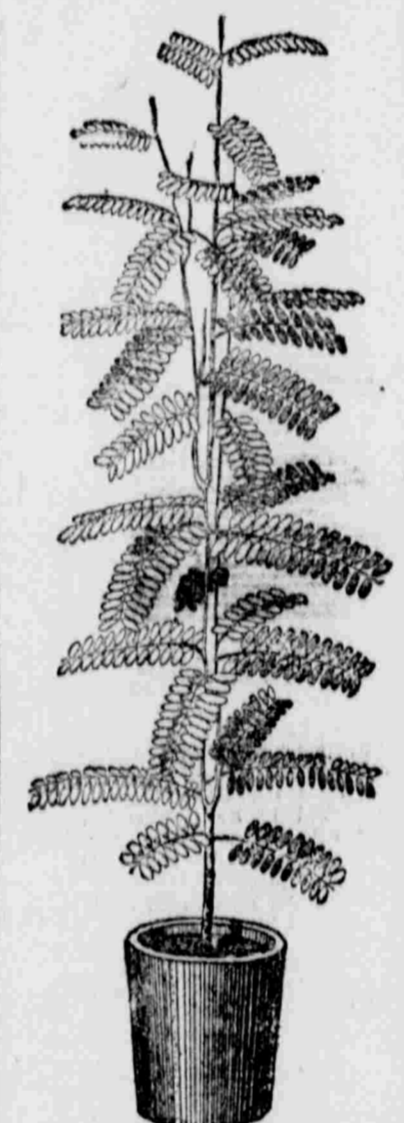
those who had forbidden him to publish his warning. Therein he again violated sacred precedent by openly criticizing an official superior. He received a letter summarily dismissing him from Kew Gardens. He had been there only three months.

He told his story to the Prince of Wales at St. James' palace. The prince was sympathetic, but the substance of what he said amounted to this:

"If the directors have fired you out of Kew Gardens, I am powerless to fire you back on them again. You must yourself demonstrate the value of your weather plant. Prove it a true prophet, and in time the world is sure to accept it, and you with it."

WANDERING OVER EUROPE.

Then ensued a long period of wandering over Europe, seeking to induce various governments to take up his system and give it a trial. First he went to France. The French government was willing to try it and make liberal terms with him if it proved what he claimed for it, provided he would grant to France a monopoly of it in the mat-



ABRUS PRECATORIUS, L.
THE WEATHER PLANT

ter of storm and fog predictions for the use of her navy.

He went to Germany, and met with a similar response there. So also in Italy. But the sultan wanted his predictions for Turkey alone, though he would not object to sharing some of them with Russia and Persia, with which countries he was particularly anxious to stand on good terms. Next he went to Russia, but Russia proved another whole hogger. She wanted a monopoly of it or none of it.

FORETELLS EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES.

Baron von Nowack believes that the electrical energy proceeding from the sun exercises a great influence upon atmospheric phenomena as well as those which take place in the interior of the earth.

The greater the electric activity of the sun, he said, "the greater are its effects upon this planet, as evidenced by violent storms, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and at the same time the more frequent are the solar spots. The weather plant is so sensitive to electric and magnetic influences that as soon as changes in the distribution of the electric and magnetic forces of our atmosphere occur the twigs and leaves of the plant perform peculiar and abnormal movements,

each of which has its definite significance.

"For instance, immediately a sun spot sufficiently large to influence our earth appears in the sun the twigs directed toward the district affected perform more or less rapid upward or downward movements. From the rapidity and extent of such movements the direction in which the twigs point, and their variation in color, at once can be determined the nature, force and geographical position of the disturbance that will affect the earth about 26 days later, when the spot completes its first rotation round the sun. Therefore one of the most valuable prophetic qualities of the weather plant is that the most dreaded and destructive phenomena are precisely those which it indicates with the greatest accuracy, and the greatest length of time in advance."

DUE TO A POTENT POISON.

"To what do you attribute this peculiar susceptibility of the plant to magnetic and electric influences?" he was asked.

"My theory about that," he answered promptly, "is that it is due to the presence in the plant in large quantities of a very poisonous substance—abrine—almost as deadly as strychnine, and which I believe is more sensitive to such influence than is the mariner's compass to the attractions of the magnetic poles. Because of the poison it contains amateurs, who may be tempted to experiment with Abrus precatorius should be careful how they handle the plant."

Briefly this is what Baron von Nowack proposes to do if he gets his institute.

To issue, 24 to 28 days in advance, special charts showing the "critical"

LOST MILLIONS OF OLD BOND STREET

Queer Discovery Concerning the World-Famous and Beloved Thoroughfare.

MARION WALKLY TELLS OF IT.

Shops are as Dingy and Unpretentious Outside as They Are Gorgeous and High-Priced Within.

Special Correspondence.
LONDON, April 1.—Some of the absurdities of London's archaic leasehold system have been strikingly illustrated by the discovery that although the city corporation owns the larger portion of New Bond street, which, as the ultra-fashionable shopping street, ranks among the most



LADY HAMILTON ONCE LIVED HERE.

A fishmonger who rejoices in royal patronage occupies No. 150, New Bond street, in which the famous beauty who ensnared Lord Nelson, lived for a time. In a house a few doors distant the great admiral lived while recovering from the wound which cost him an arm.

barometrical centers, as also the actual symptoms of firedamp explosions that may result therefrom.

To issue daily a general chart showing the various positions and movements of the critical barometrical centers during the succeeding 23 days.

To issue daily a weather chart showing two to seven days in advance the districts of fine, rainy and foggy weather generally.

To publish a detailed forecast showing 48 to 72 hours in advance the weather within a radius of 40 to 60 miles.

From one station in London the baron declares, charts could be issued applicable within a radius of about 3,000 square miles, that is, from the east coast of North America to the Strait of Gibraltar, and including the Mediterranean Sea and the north of Africa.

A WARNING FOR ST. LOUIS.

"But why," asked the interviewer, "don't you start predicting weather at once? Then if your predictions are verified the merits of your system are made apparent to all."

"Nothing would suit me better," he replied, "but I have no weather plant, no apparatus and no facilities for observing sun spots, the latter privilege being denied me at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. The weather plants I bought at Kew Gardens have been neglected and they are no more worth expense. Should I plant seeds it would be nearly three years before the plants obtained from them would be in a condition to be of service to me in my work. The plants themselves will have to be obtained from India."

"But," he added eagerly, turning to a portfolio, "here I have documentary evidence of many predictions of mine that have been verified, some of them concerning storms and earthquakes that have caused great loss of life."

The king of Italy, the sultan of Turkey, emperors and metropolitan archbishops figure in the list of those to whom such predictions were confided.

Apart from his investigations of the weather plant the baron has evolved a theory, obtained from a study of the records of critical natural phenomena throughout the world, that such phenomena are restricted to eight zones, encircling the earth in various directions, which move periodically toward or away from one another, and that the most destructive atmospheric and seismic disturbances happen when such zones intersect each other. Two such zones, he says, cross each other near St. Louis this year, and something in the nature of a cyclone is likely to result in consequence. But a more exact prediction would be dependent on the observation of sun spots. Then the weather plant would get in its fine work and reveal the day.

valuable property in London, the annual rental which the city obtains from the shops there averages only about \$25 a year. And London is now mourning its lost millions.

There are two Bond streets—Old Bond street, which runs northward a short block from Piccadilly, and New Bond street, which continues it a much longer distance to Oxford street. Since it is all one street why the distinction in the names should be maintained is one of the many mysteries of London's street nomenclature.

Old Bond street has been in existence 218 years. New Bond street got its start in life 153 years ago. Soon after it was opened in 1721 a local rhymster equaled in amazement:

What's not destroyed by time's devouring hand?
Where's Troy, and where's the Maypole in the Strand?
Peas, cabbages and turnips once grew where New Bond street and a Newer square

Such piles and buildings now rise up and down,
London itself seems growing out of town.

But the city fathers thought apparently that London had almost reached the limits of its growth on cabbage patches and turnip fields. With a short sighted policy in striking contrast to that pursued by the ancestors of the Dukes of Westminster and Bedford, who are now rolling in wealth from their ground rents, they granted perpetual leases on their building lots at annual rentals often as low as \$20 a year and never exceeding \$55. A queer clause was inserted in these leases by which, every 14 years, the holders of them have to pay a "fine" amounting to seven times the annual rental. By a subsequent arrangement, however, it was provided that these seven year "fines" might be commuted by the payment of a lump sum. Furthermore, if the leaseholder through any misadventure neglected to pay his rent and thus forfeited the lease, the corporation, in another burst of generosity, bound itself, as a special act of grace, to grant a renewal of the lease on the same terms for 80 years, at the expiration of which time the property reverts to the city.

What is legally done in England remains done for all time and thus the city obtains annually only a few hundred pounds from this property which ought to bring it in hundreds of thousands. And it is not the shopkeepers themselves who profit by the folly of these long dead and buried civic rulers. Few of them are aware that the city owns the ground in which their shops stand. They pay big rentals to the smart folk who first got hold of the leases.

Bond street—the old and the "new"



WHERE LAURENCE STERNE DIED.

The ground floor of No. 41, Old Bond street, in which the noted author of "Sentimental Journey" expired, is now a shop devoted to the sale of Turkish cigarettes and the proprietor has never even heard of the famous tenant of the old building.

greatest reliance. Russia's preponderance over Japan in the matter of cavalry is enormous, and the bulk of the Russian cavalry is Cossack. It is doubtful if there is any other Russian cavalry in Manchuria. Northern Korea and the Yalu valley, where the first battle is likely to take place, are wild, and the distances are great, just the sort of country for the rough riders of the Russian steppe, while the Japanese horses are small and lacking in stamina.

It is understood that Japan's total mounted force is but 10,000, and the improbability of transportation render it impossible that more than a small portion of this force has been or will be introduced into the Hermit kingdom. According to the latest official statistics Russia has 150 regiments of Cossack cavalry. Of course these are not all in Manchuria now, but there are enough of them there to make Japan's cavalry practically useless except for outpost duty.

In these days of far carrying powder and magazine rifles cavalry has lost much of its old time importance, but the Russians have not abandoned their belief in the utility of the mounted Cossacks to more than hold their own against infantry.

There is nothing in the military establishment of any other power which can be compared with the Cossacks, except perhaps the bush-barouks of the sultan. The Cossacks are not conscript, though their service is really obligatory. Descendants of the wild hordes which once roamed eastern Russia and Siberia, free or subject in a mild degree to the great khan of Tartary, they have been subjugated into a unit, unified and intensely loyal army. Suffering in their whole life. In return for grants of land and exemption from taxes they are called upon to serve in the imperial forces, provide for their own arms, horses and equipment.

So great is their military enthusiasm that for a Cossack to attempt to evade his duty is almost unknown. Even if he would not dare to try, for the women of his family would tear his eyes out if there were no male members of his household to execute punishment on him. The soldier may not sell the land which he receives as his pay for following the czar, but while he is in the army his family cultivates his holding. He is recently the Cossack lands were so productive that the soldiers had no time in "hiding themselves," but their duty to the czar has become a sacred burden, especially in regard to the Caucasus.

The Cossack's mount has no superior for the purpose for which it is intended.



BARON VON NOWACK.
Austrian Nobleman Who Has Spent Most of His Time and Income in Establishing the Reputation of the Weather Plant.

whose warnings would save innumerable lives and untold wealth.

The whole thing looked so much like an absurdity at first that scientific men the world over gave the patient baron the laugh. Today things are different as can be judged from the fact that the conservative Earl of Aberdeen presided over a notable gathering of scientists in London the other night to hear the Austrian, explain his discoveries; that Lord Rothschild, who is by no means a visionary, has become interested in the thing, and that the British government is at last considering the advisability of providing an official establishment for Baron Nowack's mysterious vegetable prophet.

Later in the year the baron hopes to go over to the United States with his wonderful plant, whose Latin name is "Abrus precatorius nobilis," and will undertake to get weeks ahead of the weather bureau in forecasting floods, firedamp explosions, tornadoes, earthquakes and cold snaps.

INDOURED BY AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

The baron can no longer be dismissed as a crank. That supposition is at once disposed of by an official letter from the Austrian government in which it is stated:

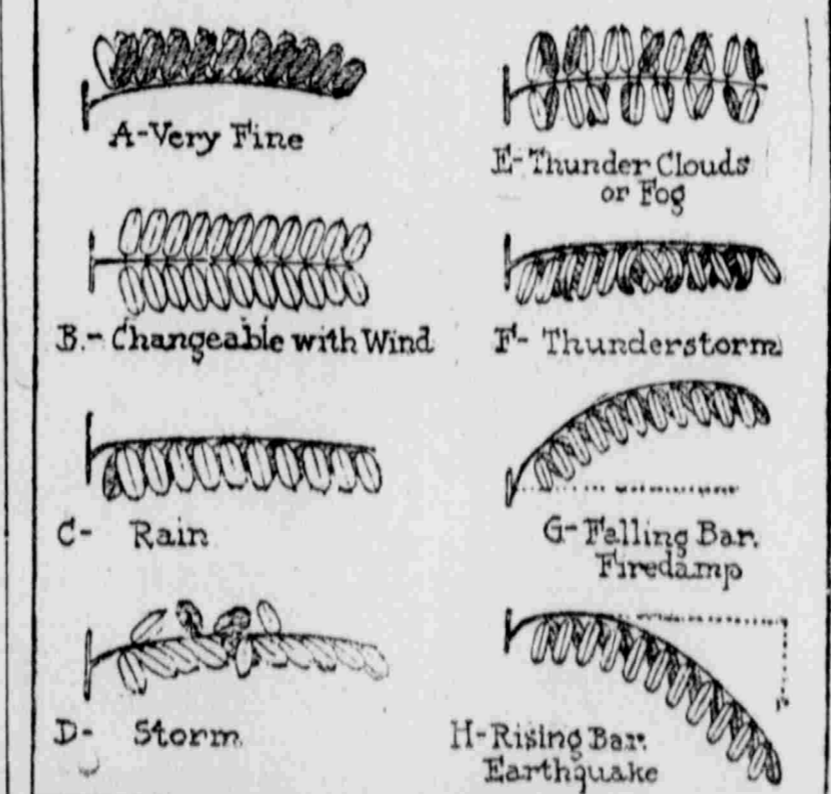
"The results which you have obtained are undoubtedly such as to prove that by your system the weather can be prognosticated not only with certainty, but for a long time in advance. This is ascertained by comparing the weather charts published by you, as a result of your observations with the weather plant, with the synoptic charts. There can exist no doubt that this discovery, if used methodically, is of far reaching importance to meteorology."

The chancellor of the imperial and royal war office, navy department, considers it their duty to recognize once more your endeavors and to recommend them to the patronage and support of influential personages and public bodies in order that you may be able to turn your studies to a practical use."

More substantial recognition was given to him by the Austrian government in the form of an annual subvention to assist him in prosecuting his investigations. And when in evening dress he proudly wears on his shirt front a diamond pin that was presented to him by the Emperor Francis Joseph as a personal testimonial to the value of his discoveries.

An interesting personality is the baron, large framed, portly, fair skinned, well whiskered, good looking, with a lofty brow and a face that, despite his 45 years, his long and strenuous struggle for recognition and his arduous studies of the most turbulent phenomena of nature, shows no trace of a wrinkle. His eyes alone betray the indomitable spirit that is in the man. They sparkle and flash with enthusiasm when he dilates on the scientific aspect of his researches and their value to humanity. Then he talks volubly and his English gets very much mixed, and it is a hard matter to find an opportunity to inject a question that will betray him into talking of himself.

"Money!" he exclaimed scornfully to the writer. "I've been told that there is a million in it if I work it right—that is, if I grant some government or some private corporation a monopoly of it, but what do I care for more money than will enable me to live comfortably? I know that my discoveries are of great practical value to mankind, and I want the world to have the benefit of them. I have expended all



HOW THE WEATHER PLANT PROPHESES