

THE ANCIENT HOME OF CHINA'S EMPERORS.

It is well known that the present rulers of China are not Chinese, but descendants of the Tartars who conquered the country. The Mongols, who had oppressed China for several centuries, were finally driven out in the fourteenth century, and after wandering about in scattered bands the remnants of them made their way back to the original haunts of their ancestry in Manchuria. In the neighborhood of the holy city of Mukden, there, according to the native legend, a great chieftain was given them a sort of dragon phoenix, born of a maiden. In 1591 he led the Manchus to victory and annexed the Yalu region, about which the Japanese and Chinese fought 200 years later. In 1618, after persistent and unavailing attempts to take Peking, he succeeded in capturing the more northern city of Mukden, which became the Manchoo capital.

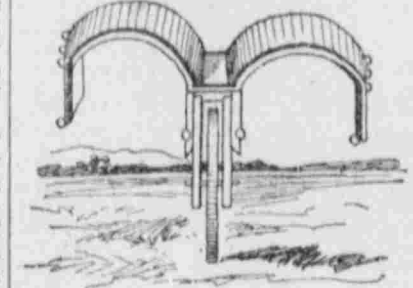
Some years after this dragon chieftain died a great rebellion broke out in China, headed by Generals Li and Chang, the former of whom alone surviving, an individual given to the reprehensible practice of punning has suggested that the unavoidable inter-

dispatched to Shan-hai-keen. At the same time the usurper Li led a great army against the place, and when before the walls he sent to inform General Wu that his aged father, whom he held in custody, would be promptly beheaded if he still persisted in his rebellion. But, as Wu loved the girl more than he revered his father, he refused to treat with Li, and so the old

imperial palace. General Wu was so intent upon killing his arch enemy that he allowed the Manchus to take possession of the capital, and when he turned back it was too late. They "held the fort," and they have continued to hold it to the present day. Li was finally murdered by the peasantry of Shan-hai.

SINGLE WHEELED MILITARY CART.

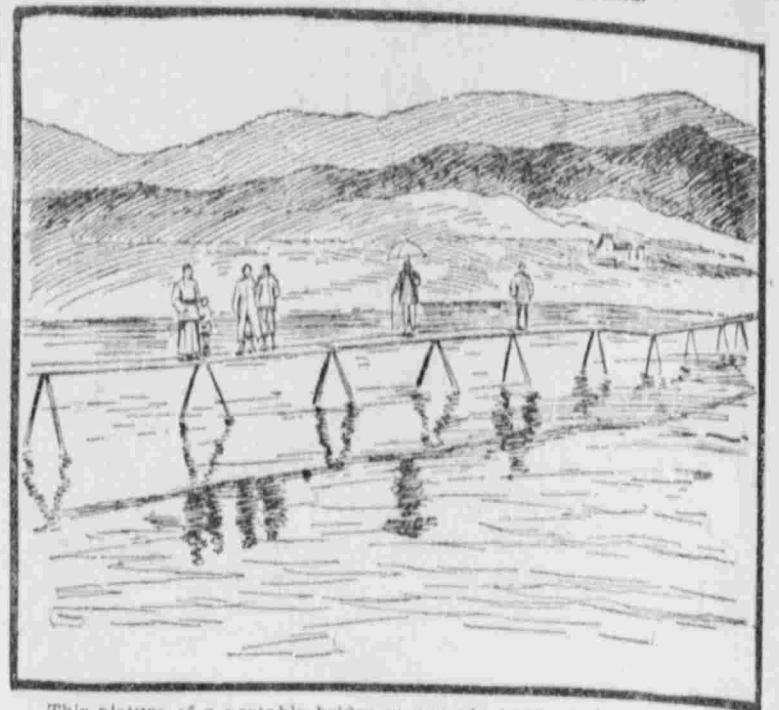
Russia must have been studying the transportation methods of her friends, the Chinese, judging from the latest vehicle evolved for military transit on the Siberian plains and the Manchurian border, for the machine figured in the illustration resembles very much a wheelbarrow in use between Tien-tsin and Peking. It is not intended for human traction, however, like the Chinese wheelbarrow, but for mules or horses, and it is claimed that a larger load can be carried on it in a rough country than by means of any other form of vehicle.



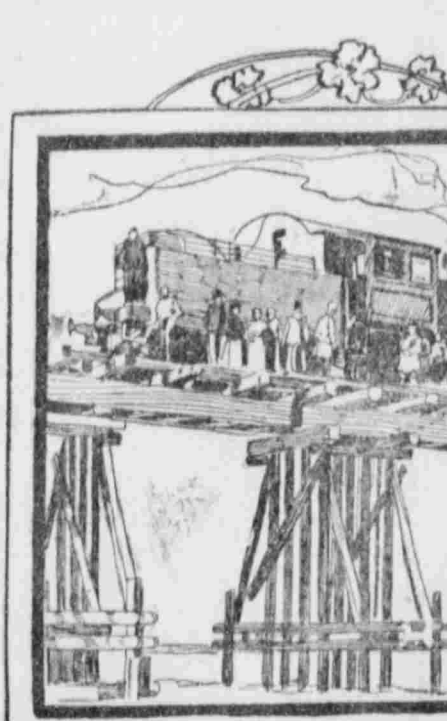
The load is generally placed in a sort of howdah, fitting on and attached to the saddle, which is made of osier and hard wood, according to the nature of the load, whether ammunition, forage, etc. Besides serving for the rapid transport of ammunition and military stores, the system is well adapted for the conveyance of light mountain guns, which can by this means be brought to the front and placed in positions otherwise unattainable.

Experiment proves that it takes over one-third of a second for the eyelid to open and close.

A PORTABLE BRIDGE USED IN SHANSI.



This picture of a portable bridge was made in the province of Shansi, to which by the way, the emperor, empress dowager and their court were reported to have fled, and shows how the people of the mountain districts cross the streams they come to in their travels. This bridge is almost as easily moved and laid down as a pontoon and is carefully taken up and laid aside where the floods cannot wash it away. It is set up again when the waters have abated. A Chinaman is almost as afraid of wetting his feet as a cat, and will walk a long way around a pond or stream to avoid kicking off his clumsy shoes and wading through. Judging from the specimens of bridges spanning some of the rivers of China, there have been some notable builders in the past who have constructed, mainly in marble, wonderful works that remain as monuments of their skill.



ONE OF THE DESTROYED BRIDGES ON THE RUSSIAN RAILWAY, MUKDEN.

ence is that Li hung Chang. At all events, Li marched upon Peking, after destroying more than a million people by letting loose the waters of the Great Yellow river. He stormed the walls and took the capital, driving the emperor to suicide, and thus bringing to an end the great Ming dynasty, which had ruled China since 1369.

A woman, it is said—the empress dowager—is the cause of China's present troubles, and even as she may bring about the downfall of the Manchoo dynasty, so also was it a woman who brought it into power. Included in the spoils of Peking among the many captives was a very beautiful slave girl who had been presented to Wu Sankwei, then defending the Chinese frontier at Shan-hai-keen. This girl was given by Li to an officer in his army, and Wu Sankwei felt so resentful that he went over to the Manchus with bag and baggage. The latter had been trying for years to get possession of Peking and the Chinese government. Wu's offer to combine against his former countrymen was therefore joyfully accepted, and Manchoo troops were at once

man was decapitated in sight of both armies. This is said to be the only notable instance of filial impiety, as the Chinese regard such an act, on record. However, the battle went against Li, for just at a critical moment the Manchus secreted in the hills a goodly force of their cavalry and completed the work that Wu had begun. The two armies combined drove Li's disorganized soldiers before them 200 miles, to the walls of Peking, behind which the usurper tarried only long enough to execute all Wu's relatives and set fire to

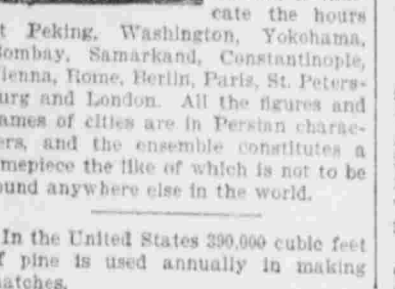
armies took Peking in the year 1644, the first Manchoo emperor being a boy of 6, who was elevated to the throne by his guardian and regent under the title of Shuncheih. He was virtually the founder of the Manchoo dynasty, which only got its grip on China through defection of the Chinese themselves and the active assistance of a portion of their army. It has no stronger hold today upon the affections of the people than it had 254 years ago, when the throne of the "Son of Heaven" came to them by default.

season, became the power that enabled Shuncheih, the grandson of Nurhachu, to become the emperor of China. Manchuria never contained a hundredth part of the population ascribed to China, and its soldiers were not particularly famous for bravery or its leaders for greatness, yet through a combination of fortuitous circumstances its rulers imposed themselves upon a country beside which their own is as a mole hill to a mountain.

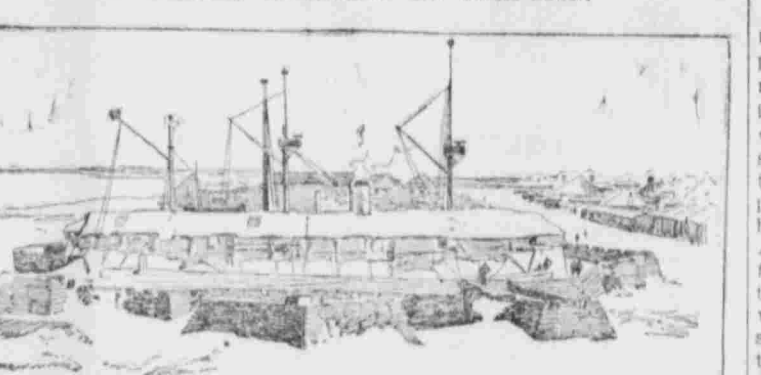
Mukden is about 200 miles from Port Arthur, the eastern terminus of the Transiberian railway, a portion of which is constructed, though bridges and tracks are at present of a temporary character. The climate is good, but the winters are severe. The products of the surrounding country are mainly those of the temperate zone, and many minerals are found in the mountains. One of the curious specimens of a composite architecture in Mukden is the Presbyterian church, a mixture of the Gothic and Chinese. This was built many years ago, when the city was the center of a flourishing mission. It is there that one sees the typical Tartars and Mongols, and the ancient costumes, arms, etc., which pertained to the Manchus of the pre-Chinese period.

THE SHAH'S WONDERFUL CLOCK.

Included among the spoil of curiosities and general bric-a-brac sent home to Persia by the great shah quite recently was a wonderful clock made expressly to his order by a London firm. It tells the time at Teheran and also that in the 12 principal cities of the world. Teheran time is marked on the large center dial, while the 12 smaller dials around it indicate the hours at Peking, Washington, Yokohama, Bombay, Samarland, Constantinople, Vienna, Rome, Berlin, Paris, St. Petersburg and London. All the figures and names of cities are in Persian characters, and the ensemble constitutes a timepiece the like of which is not to be found anywhere else in the world.



IN WINTER QUARTERS AT TIEN-TSIN.



The accompanying illustration indicates better than mere description the severity of the winter in north China. It shows a warship in winter quarters, prepared to withstand a siege either of an army or of the elements. After the river freezes over at Tien-tsin there is no hope of escape until the ice goes out in the spring for one vessel so unfortunate as to be caught. Making the best of the situation, the sailors of all nationalities fall to and build walls of mud around their vessels, which soon freeze and afford protection from further mischief.

The cold is intense for two or three months, but the winter is of short duration, and Jack Tar is released from his prison within the mud walls much sooner than he would desire to be if his own inclinations were consulted.

NOISELESS POWDER.

The success of smokeless powder in modern warfare has been such as to prompt a man of an inventive turn of mind to manufacture a powder which is said to be also noiseless. It is the invention of a German workman who studied the chemistry of explosives in this country. He has already given a private exhibition of the practicability of his discovery with considerable success. A shell loaded with his powder was fired at a target 50 yards away, and the only sound indicating the explosion was the falling of the plunger of the shell. Bohemengal, which is the name of the inventor, has not, it is said, yet sold the secret of the process, but is still in treaty with different governments for its purchase.

CHINESE BARBER AT WORK.

The Chinese barber has important duties to perform, and if conscientious he is obliged to be attentive to business. Having little, if any, beard, the Chinese males do not have to shave the face; but they make up for this by shaving almost every other portion of the head except the spot from which the pigtail grows. The barber is supposed to trim the eyebrows, remove all hair from the

THE CHINESE WHEELBARROW OR GOCART.



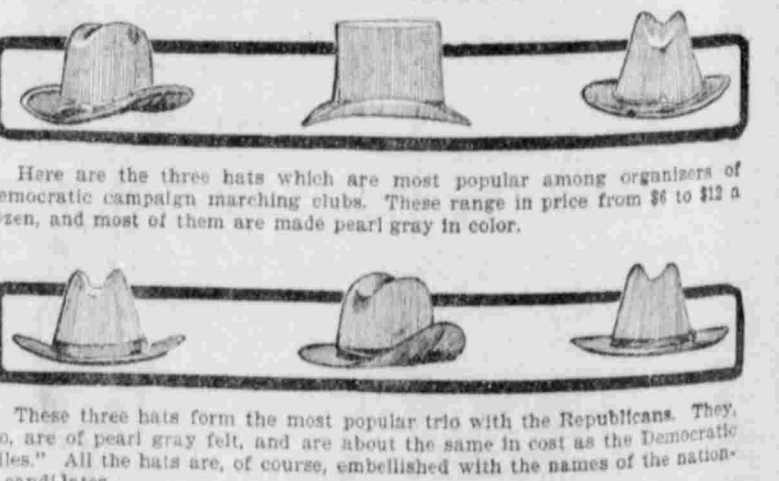
The most primitive and at the same time the cheapest mode of traveling in China is by means of the native wheelbarrow or gocart herewith depicted, loaded, in this illustration. In the city of Shanghai alone—that home of the bar and rooster—there are between 5,000 and 4,000 licensed barrowmen, who are equally ready to trundle passengers or freight for a very small sum in cash. Man power is used in the cities, but in the country districts donkeys and ponies are sometimes hitched to the craft, while the owner steers by the handles. The vehicle is heavy and clumsy, has but one wheel, which is set in the center of a rude bamboo framework, and is capable of carrying a load that would stagger a mule. In the better kind of barrow the passengers ride side by side, but in the ordinary affair, like this one, they sit facing the front, with one leg only on the frame and one foot in a swinging stirrup of rope, while they cling for dear life to the bamboo framework to prevent being spilled into the street.

CAMPING OUT WITH OOM PAUL KRUGER.



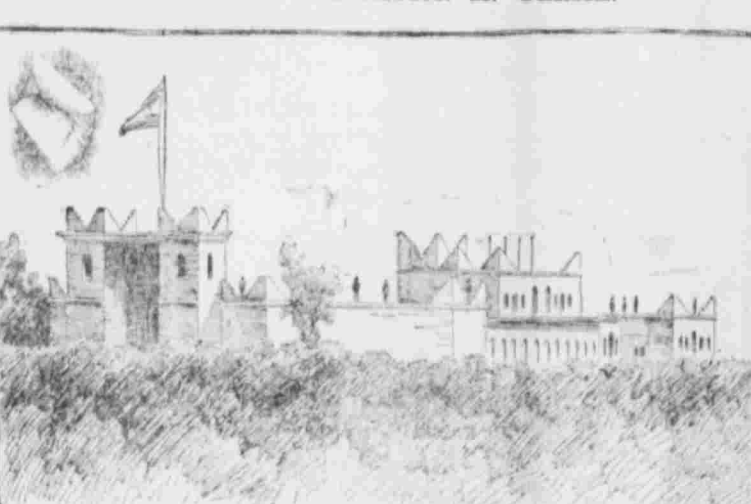
After the capture of Pretoria by Lord Roberts Mr. Kruger and the Boer capital led a very fugitive existence, flitting from place to place in advance of the unfeeling Britishers, and sometimes hardly knowing where to locate overnight. This illustration depicts a scene of frequent occurrence by the roadside during the period of six weeks or more when Oom Paul had his capital on wheels, so to speak, in a railway car at Machedodorp. Toward the end of his stay there signs of British activity became so frequent that great care was used lest the smoke from the fire in the open air should attract the attention of the enemy. It did at last, and for a time canned provisions were substituted for the savory barbecue, and the climax came when General French's patrols, on one of their raids, captured the ex-president's favorite cook. Then the great man, having been edging nearer and nearer to Portuguese territory, made the final plunge that carried him over the border to Lourenco Marques, on the coast.

MARCHING HATS FOR CAMPAIGN CLUBS.



Here are the three hats which are most popular among organizers of Democratic campaign marching clubs. These range in price from \$4 to \$12 a dozen, and most of them are made pearl gray in color. These three hats form the most popular trio with the Republicans. They, too, are of pearl gray felt, and are about the same in cost as the Democratic "fles." All the hats are, of course, embellished with the names of the national candidates.

A FRENCH ACQUISITION IN PERSIA.



The French government having recently acquired a valuable piece of property near its consulate in a town of Persia, Mr. John Bull promptly inquires by what authority Mr. Crapaud does such a thing. He is reminded that the town is the principal center of British commerce in Persia. All this the French probably knew before, and it is considered as quite a feather in their cap that they were able to secure property that had been previously refused to both England and Germany.

A NEW SEAL FOR GREAT BRITAIN.



The old great seal of the British empire having become the worse for wear a new one has been engraved after designs approved by the queen, who indeed is the principal figure on both obverse and reverse. Seated, crowned, on the royal throne, her majesty is richly robed and holds in her right hand a scepter. On her left stands St. George and on her right St. Michael, who are armed with lance and pennon. Around the seal runs the legend, "Victoria, Dei Gratia, Brit. Regina, Fid. Def. Ind. Imp." On the counter seal the queen is represented as mounted on her palfrey and is not so portly as on the "principal" side, while she is defended by a modern ironclad and a sailing vessel instead of the saints. Her supremacy on the sea is indicated by the traditional emblems, a trident, dolphins and conventional waves. Above her head is a scroll with the words "Deu et Mon Droit," and on either side are the rose, shamrock and thistle.

The price of fuel at Shanghai, China, is seldom more than about \$10 per ton for foreign coal.

THINGS AND PEOPLE.

There are three representatives of foreign countries at West Point, admitted by the customary courtesy of government to the government—Cadet Alfaro, the son of the president of Ecuador; Cadet Iglesias, a brother of the president of Costa Rica, and Cadet Ponte, the son of the Venezuelan secretary of war. Experiments have for some time been made in England with smokeless coal.

This peculiar coal may be burned either in an ordinary grate or in a basin in the middle of the room without developing any perceptible odor or smoke at any time. The fire looks like the finest coal fire, and the flame is white and blue.

The Great Western railway of England is lighting its corridor trains by electricity obtained from dynamos driven from the car axis. Storage batteries are carried for use when the running speed is slow and for stops.

The annual crop of mushrooms in France is valued at \$2,000,000, and there are 60 wholesale firms in Paris dealing exclusively in them. In the department of the Seine, it appears, there are some 2,000 caves in which mushrooms are stored in their cuttings before being moved to their outlets.

The first four weeks after the opening of the electric railroad at Cairo, Egypt, not fewer than 80 persons were killed. Since that time the weekly average of victims has been seven or eight. This high rate of casualties is due in part to defective eyesight, eye diseases prevailing in Egypt.

Chief Croker of the New York fire department, who has been going to fires in a swift locomobile, has given up his machine for day use and now rides behind a horse. He considers the locomobile too dangerous in the crowded streets.

Ex-President Harrison is a believer in the theory that a lawyer must study law his whole life long. Not a day passes but he devotes some portion of it to some textbook.

Yank Lee, the Chinese minister to Russia, is practically bankrupt and has had to move out of the palatial residence of the Countess Kleinmichel in St. Petersburg (which he has been occupying at a cost of about \$10,000 a year) into a cheap flat. His financial distress is attributed to the cessation of remittances from his government.

General Bell, the new provost marshal of Manila, began his career as a soldier in 1852—as a Lieutenant in the Eighty-sixth Ohio volunteers. Senator James K. Jones is rated as one of the 20 millionaires of Arkansas. This will be news to many people who imagine that their acquaintance with the chairman of the Democratic national committee is quite intimate. It will also be a matter of interesting information to the constituents of Senator Jones, who have inferred from his speeches that he considered himself one of the plain people.

The raising of water soaked logs from the bottom of the Kennebec river is a thriving business in Maine. By the use of wide, flat boats the logs are drawn to the surface, towed to landings and split up into cord wood. In this manner a hundred cords of wood are annually reclaimed from the river bed annually. Westbrook and Mallison Falls alone.