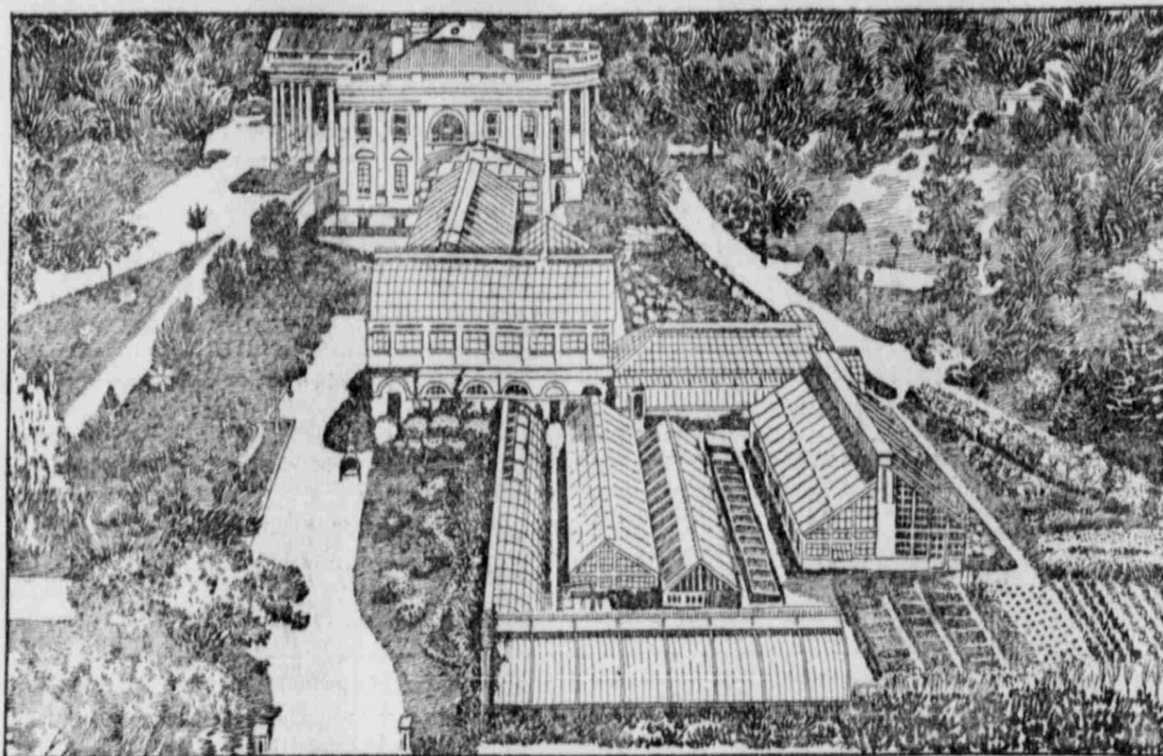


A RADICAL RENOVATION OF THE HISTORIC WHITE HOUSE

THE radical renovation of the nation's executive mansion now going on will be a matter of regret to many who have the national traditions at heart, for there is no other place of residence in the land that has such a hold on American sentiment. The White House has been associated with every Washington that nation has known from President to Roosevelt, though the former never resided in it, though the latter began in it, though John Adams in the year 1800. Washington, however, was at the laying of the cornerstone in 1792 and watched with great solicitude the erection of the structure that was destined to play such an important part in the republic's history.

Although the White House has retained nearly all the features elaborated in its architect's original plan, yet it has undergone many changes since first it was erected. The damage caused by the British conflagration in 1814 was repaired three years later, and it was then that the building was first painted white in order to conceal the ravages that fire had made on its smoke blackened walls. It was reopened to the public by President Madison on New Year's day, 1818.

Since the time of President Jackson, when the grand portico and porte cochere were added to the north front, it has been a custom sanctioned in a measure by precedent for every administration to make some change or other in the White House interior. Rather it has become a tradition that the leading female member of the executive's family, whether his wife, sister, niece



VIEW OF THE WHITE HOUSE CONSERVATORIES BEFORE THE ALTERATIONS.

or whoever, shall have the privilege of turning the staid old structure topsy-turvy and refurbish at least one room according to her own notions, if she have any. Thus the various changes have been made resulting in such an incongruous interior as our national executive mansion presents today. All the "first ladies of the land" at different times have had a chance to display their tastes, or lack of taste, in refurbishing the rooms, beginning with Abigail Adams, the wife of the first president to reside in the White House, and ending with Mrs. Roosevelt, who is credited with the most radical renovation of them all. Mrs. Adams found the White House little better than a barn and, if tradition be true, even hung her "weekly wash" in the great east room, which has been somewhat improved since her time and seemed to it of late years to be good enough for anybody. Mrs. Roosevelt, however, has decided that she shall have a rich inlaid floor, that the massive marble mantel shall be replaced with one of carved wood, etc., and already it has been dismantled to be refitted and refurnished in accordance with her behest. It is, as stated, supposed to be the "first lady's" prerogative that she shall do as she pleases with the living and reception rooms of the White House, and the president and the people at large shall have no voice in the matter.

In the present renovation of the White House, however, there are contemplated even more extensive alterations than are dependent upon a woman's whim, for the president is to be evicted, and the rooms hitherto occupied by him and his staff of employees are to be converted to their legitimate

rooms in the eastern half of the second story exclusively for private use and, what is more, restores the mansion to its status as a private dwelling. The office building, for the erection of which the conservatory has been dismantled and removed, will be covered way, and the general architectural features of the main structure will be preserved by a corresponding approach on the east side, which will in the future, it is given out, be the public entrance, reached from "executive avenue" between the mansion and the treasury building.

The transfer of the conservatory structures to a different part of the executive grounds will remove landmarks which, while relatively recent, are still of some interest in the minds of many as connected with various occupants of the White House. In its present shape, as an attachment to the executive mansion and an essential feature of its menage, the conservatory has existed between thirty and forty years, having been remodelled by Mrs. Hayes, who was a great lover of flowers; but some of the plants notably several of the palms, are more than a hundred years old. No state function is considered complete without banks of flowers from the White House conservatory massed upon the mantel of the state dining room and arranged upon the tables.

All the mistresses of the White House have taken a deep interest in the conservatory, but none of them, it is said, passed so much time within this palace of verdure and bloom as Mrs. McKinley, who was debarred by her physical infirmities from much exercise in the open air. It will be recalled that her most popular portraits were those taken in the conservatory, and she loved to recline in her invalid's chair and be wheeled about by her maid through the avenues of palms, ferns and flowers. Many of the most popular of recent White House traditions cluster around this conservatory which has been moved to make way for the present office building.

FORMING NEW EYELIDS.
A remarkable surgical triumph has been won by a Philadelphia doctor, who has succeeded in grafting a new set of upper and lower eyelids on the eyes of a man who lost his original set in a fire. The accident had left both eyes of the victim unprotected, and there was danger of the infection losing his sight. The attention of the doctor, he brought to graft four new eyelids if possible, but the operation was so slow, that it was necessary to proceed slowly, but the experiment was successful from the start. Today the patient has four new eyelids, which perform the normal functions naturally.

SHORTEST NAME OF SHIP.
The Ea is said to have the shortest name for a vessel in the world. The Spanish steamer and reached Philadelphia laden with iron ore after a voyage so rough that three of her sailors were incapacitated by seasickness. The Ea was named by a Spanish sailor, the father of her daughter, Esmeralda. She belongs to a line that has set in the matter of short names an example that other lines are beginning to follow. The Eola, the Ara and the Oria are other ships of hers. In all the fleet there is not a name that is more than five letters long.

MRS. PEARY, ARCTIC HEROINE, AND HER VOYAGE OF RESCUE

FEW lives can parallel the experiences of Mrs. Josephine Peary and her little daughter Marie, who are now on their way northward bound for Greenland. All the world knows their mission, which is to meet and bring back to civilization a beloved husband and father, to whom they waved farewell in August of last year. After leaving the port of Sydney, Cape Breton, and sailing through the strait of Belle Isle, they will probably be lost sight of until news comes to us again some two or three months later.

This is the fifth time that Mrs. Peary, indomitable arctic heroine, has braved the dangers of the frozen north either with or in search of her husband and the fourth time that her little daughter, in fact, is a true child of the north, for she was born within the arctic circle on Sept. 12, 1893. She is consequently the "most northerly born white child in the world," and started out in life with an experience absolutely unique. Now nine years of age, little Marie Amhigo Peary takes an intelligent interest in the expeditions in search of the pole and will follow with avidity the trend of events during the voyage upon which she and her mother have set forth. Marie was born, her mother says, "on a delightful day near the beginning of the long arctic night. We had no fire in the house, and the windows were wide open to let in the sunshine and the delicious perfume of the flowers. At that time of the year it was light up there from 5 a. m. to 9 p. m. The days grew rapidly shorter, however, until we plunged into the long arctic night, and that was the time I dreaded on baby's account." During more than 100 consecutive days the sun never shone, and the temperature was from 20 to 40 degrees below zero; yet the arctic born baby thrived and became robust and handsome, developing into the attractive child we find her today. She was as sturdy as a little Eskimo, was never sick a moment, her mother says, while in the north, and was at times out for exercise in a temperature of nearly 20 degrees below zero.

Both child and mother are remarkable personalities, both are extremely attractive and both seem endowed with a courage that peculiarly fits them

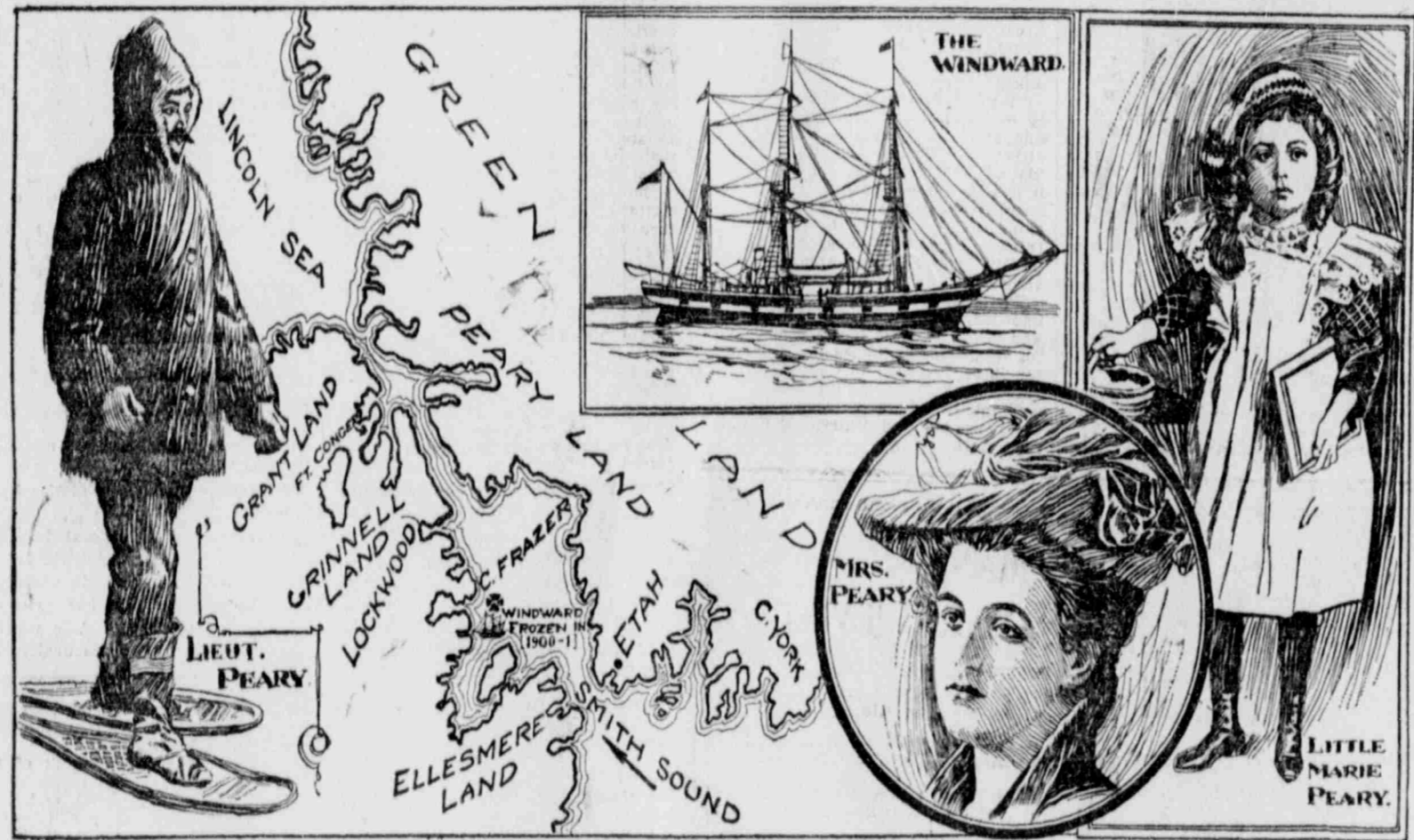
as companions for one of America's bravest and most pertinacious explorers, Lieutenant Robert E. Peary. In personal appearance Mrs. Peary is tall and slender, her shapely head crowned with a wealth of golden hair, fair complexion, animated features and altogether feminine and prepossessing. She bears about her no sign of having undergone such terrible hardships in the great white north and indeed laughs at the dangers and perils of the expedition, which she has promised her wife that, whether she shall have found the pole or not, this time she will return to the United States and home for good and all. His five years' leave of absence granted by the navy department will expire in November, and he must return then will nilly, as his official status is that of a civil engineer in the United States navy, with which he has

was sixteen years ago that he made a leap, as it were, from the tropics to the arctic, when ordered to make a survey of the inland ice cap of Greenland in 1886. Five years later he initiated his own wonderful Peary explorations which have shown such interesting and genius for discovery, and which have developed such an interest all over the world. His wife, to whom he was married in 1888, accompanied him on his

Greenland, lured thither by the presence there of the intrepid explorer with whom her name and fate are linked. One of her voyages would supply material for an interesting book of adventure, but the last one prior to this year's trip abounded in abundant incident for a romance. "In it," for adventures to be compared with those this indomitable woman has encountered in

she took her little daughter with her and set sail on the same steamer—the Windward—that carries her northward now. Leaving Sydney, Cape Breton, on July 20, the Windward, with its hopeful little party, arrived at Etah, coast of Greenland, the 19th of August. To their bitter disappointment they found no explorer there, but only instructions for them to push on into Smith's sound for winter quarters. In short, they were caught in the lee of Cape Sabine and had to pass eight weary months in cruel suspense, with no tidings of Peary, though he was all the time at Fort Conger, only 150 miles away, wholly unconcerned with his wife and daughter, however so near. There was a joyful meeting, however, on the 6th of May (Peary's birthday) by the way) when the explorer suddenly appeared on the deck of the Windward, having hurried to the vessel posthaste as soon as he was made aware what precious passengers she had on board. The reunited family remained together on the ship until the last of August, the summer being spent in hunting walrus for future supplies, and then Mrs. Peary bore her husband farewell touch of civilization at Sydney, Cape Breton, Sept. 13, 1901, after a two weeks' trip from Cape Sabine, Ellesmere Land.

On her return from the last trip to Greenland Mrs. Peary brought out from the mysterious silence in which her husband's doings had been shrouded for two years the first intelligence of his having rounded the northern end of Greenland and having attained the highest latitude on the most northerly land of this hemisphere. This accomplishment ranks second only to that of reaching the pole, and that it is regarded as a wonderful achievement is amply testified by the medals that have been bestowed upon the explorer by the greatest geographical societies of the world. When Mrs. Peary left her husband in August of last year, he was fresh from another fruitless attempt to reach the pole. His rounding of the most northerly point of Greenland occurred in 1900; he had been almost crippled by the loss of seven toes by amputation the year before; he had been beaten back by icy blasts and drifting snow; but his indomitable will still remained unbroken. Having established during the past three years of continuous work a line of caches from Etah northward, having accumulated ample supplies, dogs and hardy Eskimos and



her searches for her knee lord, for the ancients did not know of the arctic and were confined to the comparatively prosaic and restricted Mediterranean. Two years ago Mrs. Peary set out on her fourth voyage to Greenland, having had no tidings from her husband since he had said goodbye to her in August, 1898. Then, as on this year's voyage,

being fired by an unquenchable ambition to carry our flag to the pole, there are many reasons for believing that Lieutenant Peary may have been successful. At least that is the belief of his indomitable wife and the daughter, who are now steaming northward buoyed up by the hope that they shall not only meet the great explorer at Etah, the appointed rendezvous on the Greenland coast, but that they will also meet there the first human being who has reached and returned from the mysterious pole.

WILLIAM R. CALES.

CHARACTER BY SMELL.
According to a writer on perfume, its use is therefore to be recommended. The scent of the violet, we are not surprised to learn, produces a spirit of placid devotion. The lily, however, causes obstinacy. Extract of clove transforms the milk of honest thought into the rankest poison.

Essence of bergamot changes the frivolous spirit into the profound and meditative thinker, while yervain has the merit of instilling artistic ideas. But the king among perfumes is without doubt ambergris. Before ambergris we must all bow the knee, for it is the divine essence on which genius may be nurtured.

ROYAL TENNIS.
The king of Portugal is an enthusiastic lawn tennis player, and both the king and his brother, the Infante Don Alfonso, played for the south of Portugal against the north in the recent tournament offered by the queen of Portugal. The king plays a hard volleys game, with good judgment in placing, and can hold his own with the best players in Portugal.

AN AVENUE OF TREES.
Japan has an avenue of trees fifty miles in length. The trees are the cryptomeria, and every one is a perfect specimen, quite straight, from 150 to 150 feet in height and 12 to 15 feet in circumference. The avenue extends from the town of Namada to Naha.

COSTLY GOWNS.
The latest record broken is that of the highest duty on foreign made dresses. A fair traveler recently arrived in New York with gowns which were appraised at a value of over \$1,000. For this modest little wardrobe, which, by the way, occupied twenty trunks, the lady was misled by the customs authorities to the little tune of \$40,000.

UNCLE SAM'S WONDERFUL NEW SIXTEEN INCH GUN

It is admitted by all, even by our great commercial rivals, the British and Germans, that we now possess in our recently completed sixteen inch gun the most powerful piece of ordnance the world has ever seen. The world has not heard from it yet, however, and we have to take a great deal as to its prospective doing pretty much on trust, but there is no doubt that its performance will excite the admiration of our friends and the disgust of our enemies, if enemies we have. There has been a deal of talk about this wonderful sixteen inch gun, which has been in process of construction so long that people in general had almost forgotten all about it. Its construction was decided upon away back in the first Cleveland administration; work was begun upon it years ago, interrupted on account of more pressing orders during the Spanish war for smaller ordnance, begun again in real earnest four years since, and two years ago it had arrived at the proper stage for having its steel jacket fitted on. This delicate operation of shrinking on the monster's jacket was successfully performed in April, 1900, and ever since that time the great gun has been receiving its finishing touches at the Watervliet arsenal, on the Hudson, where it was forged and finally brought to perfection.

The fact of which Uncle Sam ought to feel proudest is not that he owns the biggest gun in the world, but that the biggest gun in the world was made in his own shops of steel forged from ore taken out of American mines and car-

ried up from one stage of progress to another by workmen trained to perfection in his own machine shops and superintended by officials whose education was obtained in government schools and academies. This is the fact that most appeals to the world and to Americans in particular, for if we can make the largest gun in the world we can also produce the largest anything else for the use and admiration of the universe.

But here at last, ready for mounting on its two million dollar emplacement in the harbor of New York, is the monster gun upon which American skill has spent the sum total of its abilities. It is a monument to American brains, energy, persistence and natural resources and will go far to give us prestige abroad as well as to make for the furtherance of peace. This sixteen

inch peacemaker is 49 feet in length, 5 feet in diameter at the breech, 2 feet 2 inches at the muzzle and weighs about 252,000 pounds, the crude steel from which it was forged weighing 365,000 pounds. The gun consists of a long inner tube with a heavy jacket extending from the breech to some six feet forward the trunnions, beyond which the "chase hoops" extend to the muzzle. It has been built up scientifically and the inner tube re-encased at every point where there is a possibility of great strain. When the jacket was shrunk over the tube, there was not the minutest fraction of an inch discrepancy in the calculations, and the whole process was an unqualified success. It has been calculated by those same officers and given out to those same officers of Major J. M. Ingalls, an authority

school instructor at Fortress Monroe for many years, that the range of this steel monster will be the enormous distance of twenty-one miles. In attaining to this range the theoretical trajectory of the projectile shows an elevation of 30,500 feet, or about 10,000 feet higher than the highest mountain on this continent. The projectile to be fired from the gun is 64 inches in length and will be backed by 576 pounds of smokeless powder as at present manufactured. The range of the gun, as established by accurate calculations, is nearly nine miles greater than that of the maximum obtained by any other at present known. It is estimated that with a maximum powder pressure of between 37,000 and 38,000 pounds to the square inch the sixteen inch gun will throw a projectile weighing 2,370 pounds with a muzzle velocity of 2,300 feet per

second, developing a muzzle energy of 88,000 foot tons. With a slower burning powder, however, it is estimated that the gun would develop even greater velocity and energy than this, though on this basis even the superiority of the American gun over every other approaching it in size has been amply demonstrated. Three guns are mentioned that are worthy to compare with this one in point of caliber—a French gun of 16.05 inch caliber, an English Armstrong of 16.25 and an Italian of 17.75. Compared with our great gun, however, the relative maximum energy developed was, respectively, only 41 per cent for the French, 45 for the Italian and 65 for the Armstrong, showing the American easily a winner.

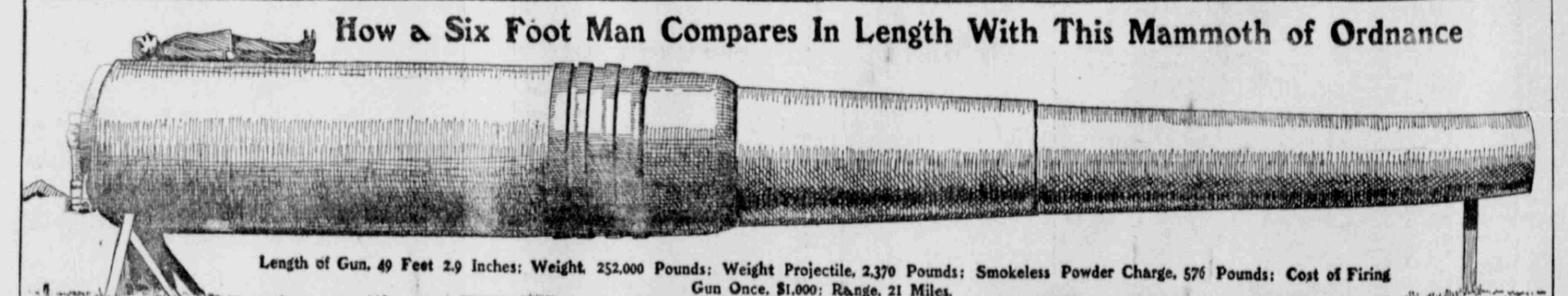
As originally intended by the Endicott board, which recommended the sixteen inch gun, for coast defense,

eighteen were to be made for the protection of New York alone; ten were to be mounted at San Francisco, eight at Boston and four at Hampton Roads, but it is now considered doubtful if any more will be ordered, there being a question of utility as between the sixteen inch and twelve inch guns, the latter costing much less to make, to fire and to operate and having a measurably good penetration.

It will cost about \$1,000 every time this sixteen inch gun is fired, while a twelve inch can be discharged at a total cost of half that sum. The mass of metal that either gun can drop upon the deck of a ship or send crashing through its sides is sufficient almost to sink it merely from impact, some of the experts say. At all events whether more guns of this pattern are to be made in the United States or not we

can boast of having at least one gun that is not only larger than any other in the world, but has immeasurably superior ballistic qualities and penetration. When mounted on the disappearing carriage that has been prepared for it and pointed seaward from Sandy Hook, this giant among guns is itself to prove a powerful deterrent to peace.

TRUMAN L. BERTON.



Length of Gun, 49 Feet 2.9 Inches; Weight, 252,000 Pounds; Weight Projectile, 2,370 Pounds; Smokeless Powder Charge, 576 Pounds; Cost of Firing Gun Once, \$1,000; Range, 21 Miles.

GENERAL INFORMATION.
Lions and tigers are too weak in lung power to run more than half a mile. The United States has most theaters—65 to every 1,000,000 people. England has fewer than 5 to 1,000,000 inhabitants. The biggest balloon ever made was by a German named Ganswendt about twenty years ago. Its capacity was 20,000 cubic yards. It weighed twenty-

one and one-half tons and would raise three and one-half tons into the air. On Lord Derby's Westmorland estate the ancient custom—observed only once in a century—of walking the boundary was recently held. Halls were made along the sixteen miles of party and sports held. The cavatory, numbering several hundreds, ad-

joined to the hall, where a bullock had been roasted whole, and there were more sports. The regular army of China is said to consist of 323,000 men. Besides this, the emperor's army, there is a national army of 650,000 men, who are paid about 50 cents a month, but in consideration of this munificence are required to feed themselves. The cavalry receive \$3 a month, feed their own

horses and, if lost or killed, are required to replace them out of the pay given by the government. It is proposed in France to establish a court of justice for women and for women, to which may be carried all those cases concerning which the most learned men know nothing. This will relieve a man judge, for instance, from determining questions as to fit in suits brought by dressmakers against their

clients, and it ought to be done away with much expert testimony in such cases. Effectiveness is claimed for yet another remedy for sleeplessness. Dr. von Gellhorn employs a band of wet muslin about eighteen inches wide wound around the lower part of the leg. The bandage is covered by gutta percha tissue and the stocking, and in some cases is replaced every three or four hours. The effect is to dilate the

vessels of the leg, thus diminishing the blood in the head and producing sleep. The bamboo holds the record among plants for quick growth. It has been seen to grow two feet in twenty-four hours. An elephant has only eight teeth altogether. At fourteen years the elephant loses its first set of teeth, and a new set grows.

According to Dr. York, offspring al-

ways takes the complexion from the father; hence, if the father of a negro baby has any white blood in his veins the child at birth will be nearly as white as a Caucasian. On the other hand, the child of a white mother and black father will after a month's time be nearly as black as the full blooded negro. Over 720 tons of flowers were exported from the Solly Isles last season.