

A FOG IN LONDON. What it Means to the Great Metropolis to be Shrouded in Mist--Traffic at a Standstill.

What is generally considered to be the worst fog known in London for a number of years descended on that city just before Christmas. Matters of a social nature were entirely at a standstill, dozens of dinner parties being countermanded, for fog could not reach their destinations.

Shortly after 1 o'clock omnibuses, automobiles, vans laden with Christmas goods, broughams, hansom and vehicles of all kinds were absolutely blocked, and it was almost impossible to cross the road so dark was it. To cross the street was a danger to one's life, for one never knew when a bus, or a van, no matter how slowly driven, might appear through the fog and throw him down.

One feature of the day was the great good humor which prevailed. Under such trying conditions, no body seemed to get hurried, and no police never showed up so well in regulating the traffic, holding back the vehicles to allow the crowds to cross the streets, while the passengers showed a philosophic resignation to the slow progress.

When business men left their homes in the morning to make way to their offices, they were so delayed that, judging from the manner in which the local trains were held up on the lines, and from frequent blocks on the streets, multitudes could not have reached their offices till two or more hours late, and as the day wore on, the conditions became worse and worse.

Walking on the pavements, it was impossible to see even the kerbstones. Bus drivers had to leave their perches and lead the horses along, while the conductors piloted, or tried to pilot, the way with a lantern.

But, bad as it was in the city, even worse conditions prevailed in the suburbs. Brilliantly lighted shops in Clapham, for instance, were quite useless in lighting up even the pavements, and the center of the streets was impenetrable blackness.

TRAINED WAR PIGEONS USED BY THE JAPANESE.

The Imported English Racing Birds, Bred Them and Use Them to Carry Dispatches.

Such is the exigency of war that even the gentle dove of peace is pressed into its service, says Black and White. The part played by these birds and the yemen service they rendered in the South African war will still be fresh in the memories, and, notwithstanding the advent and progress of wireless telegraphy, "the faithful messenger," is again seeing active service, this time with the Japanese and Russian forces.

With a farseeing forethought, the necessity of which is only now apparent, the Japs some five years ago established their military and naval lofts, and by repeated experiments since then they have organized a system calculated to bring forth the highest qualities of the pigeons with which their lofts were stocked.

English Racing Pigeons. A great obstacle and one which at first was considered fatal to the formation of a reliable service of messengers, has melted away. The natural enemy of the pigeon, the hawk, has made havoc among the Chinese pigeons, and the remedy adopted in that country of scaring off these birds of prey by attaching a light bamboo whistle to the pigeon's tail feathers was not within the bounds of consideration from a military point of view.

The actual pigeons imported by Japan were of necessity kept prisoners, and were used entirely for stock purposes. Had they been given their liberty they would, in all probability, have been lost in a vain attempt to regain their old homes.

With a rush modern life is, push, drive, get there somehow. It's hard on the nerves, hard on the digestion hard on sleep. Your blood gets thin and strength goes down hill. Busy people must maintain health, must build up. Take Ferrozone, it sharpens the appetite, forms rich, red blood, develops strength as if by magic.

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EVADING TAXES. Up-to-Date Methods in the United States to Avoid Assessment.

(Florida Times Union.) Our States are burdened with debt. Our cities are mortgaged. New taxes must be provided for all this, and the claim that we grow richer and richer is made only by taking into consideration the aggregations of property which have the power of passing taxation downward. Tax a coal mine and the consumer pays it--tax the landlord, and rent rises. It is the producer that pays the tax--the cotton, and the corn, and the wheat, and the meat--on them the burden falls at last.

Announcing the Arrival. The arrival of a bird carrying a despatch at the Japanese naval lofts is announced by an ingenious arrangement of electric bells. After entering an outer cage the bird passes through a long box, opened at each end, before entering the loft itself. When an arrival is expected the loft end of this box is closed with glass doors, and the weight of the bird on entering the box causes it to tilt sufficiently to allow a shutter to drop behind the pigeon, which is thus held captive.

With an army on the march the use of pigeons as messengers has so far proved a failure, all experiments to get these birds to return to a loft continually on the move having been void of success. Japan has, however, with the tenacity of purpose for which she is famous scored a success with traveling lofts. Such lofts are stocked with birds as soon as they are old enough to leave the nest, and the birds are kept confined within until required for use.

GERMAN STRIKE GROWS SERIOUS. Berlin, Jan. 14.--The coal strike continues to spread, the leaders evidently losing control of the miners. Although the Essen conference on Jan. 12 voted against further strike until the mine owners association returned its answer on Jan. 16 to the demands of the conference, a number of meetings of individual miners sections yesterday voted to join in the strike.

IMMENSE HOTEL FOR MONTREAL. A Structure to Cost \$3,000,000 to be Built There--To Surpass the King Edward. (Montreal Gazette, Jan. 13.) Recently there have been some big transactions in St. Catherine street real estate, and it is said that a deal will soon be closed for a site for the new Alexandra Hotel, at the corner of St. Catherine street.

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HONORED BY THE CZAR. St. Petersburg, Jan. 14.--On the occasion of the Russian New Year Emperor Nicholas bestowed on Grand Duke Sergius a portrait of Alexander III, to be worn on his breast, with the ribbon of the order of St. Andrew.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC Atlantic Steamship Service. From Liverpool. From St. John, N.B. Dec. 27--LAKE CHAMPLAIN, Jan. 14. Jan. 10--LAKE ERIE, Jan. 23. Jan. 24--LAKE MANITOBA, Feb. 11. Feb. 7--LAKE CHAMPLAIN, Feb. 25. Feb. 21--LAKE ERIE, Mar. 11. Mar. 7--LAKE MANITOBA, Mar. 25.

ABERDEEN HOTEL. Home-like and attractive. A temperance house. Newly furnished and thoroughly renovated. Centrally located. Electric cars pass the door to and from all parts of the city.

ROYAL HOTEL. 41, 43 and 45 King Street, ST. JOHN, N.B. RAYMOND & DOHERTY, Proprietors. W. E. RAYMOND, H. A. DOHERTY.

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INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY. On and after SUNDAY, Nov. 20, 1904, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted) as follows: TRAINS LEAVE ST. JOHN. No. 2--Express for Halifax and Campbellton, 7.00.

CANADIAN PACIFIC NEW TOURIST SLEEPING CARS FOR CHICAGO. Leave Montreal Every Tuesday. FOR VANCOUVER. LEAVE MONTREAL every THURSDAY and SUNDAY. LEAVE NORTH BAY every TUESDAY and SATURDAY.

Ask Your Wine Merchant FOR-- GAELIC WHISKY! (8 Years Old.) IMPORTED DIRECT FROM The Stirling Bonding Co., STIRLING, SCOTLAND.

Summer Places Wanted. MORE and more each year summer sojourners from the States are seeking out the cool spots in Canada, and patronizing well-managed hotels and pleasantly located boarding places.

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