

England Plans a Road for Egypt.

English capitalists seriously think of building a railroad between Alexandria, Egypt, and Shanghai, China, through Arabia, Persia, India, Indo-China, and the Valley of the Yang-tse-Kiang. The total length of the railroad would be 8,000 miles, but it would only have to be constructed for 6,600 miles, as Indian railroads from Kurrachee to Calcutta, already cover considerable of the distance.

England, it is said, proposes to show Russia that she, too, can build a railroad which will prove quite as useful for commercial purposes as the great trans-Siberian line. To keep as closely as possible in touch with the Far East is as much England's ambition as it is Russia's, and that this object can be best achieved by connecting Egypt and China is the opinion of several engineers and business men who have closely studied the subject.

On the Continent of Europe the news of this project is causing much discussion. The general opinion of the foreign press is that England will never be able to carry her plans out, and mainly because such a line would have to pass through countries like Arabia, Persia, Indo-China, over which she has no authority, and it is only reasonable to suppose that international questions would arise in regard to its construction, which would certainly retard it and very probably prevent it altogether.

For the Benefit of the Church.

An amusing incident occurred at a jumble sale recently held at a Nonconformist Church in Southampton. The church is situated near a well-known laundry, to which a messenger, who was not very safe in his topography, was to take the weekly washing of a prominent citizen of the town. Unfortunately for the owner, the washing was left at the church, whereupon the holders of the sale, thankful for the anonymous gift, proceeded to offer the collars, shirts and various other articles, to the highest bidder.

DANGER—Toy Pistols.

An urgent representation is to be made to the Home Office concerning the sale, in Birmingham especially, of what are misnamed toy pistols to young children. Recently a boy named William Day bought a toy pistol for twopence, and having loaded it fired in the face of a lad named Connor. The weapon discharged a bullet, which penetrated Connor's cheek and lodged in his jaw. Day was arrested.

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Dec 21, 1900. dwalyr.

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EMINENT TRICYCLE RIDER.

Lord Salisbury Takes a Daily Spin for the Benefit of His Health.

Of Lord Salisbury as a cyclist The London Express says: The Premier has never been a great athlete, yet he is not one of those who scoff at the need for physical exercise, and despite his years he is regular in the tricycle rides which he enjoys daily for the benefit of his health. He usually takes his exercise before breakfast in the morning; for not only is that the coolest part of the day, but the streets through which Lord Salisbury passes are at the time practically free from traffic, so that he runs no risk of collisions and so forth. Lady Gwendolen Cecil usually accompanies her father on her bicycle; and the pair generally wend their way from Arlington street to Hyde Park. The regularity with which the aged Premier has been taking his daily exercise is the best possible proof of the completeness of his Lordship's restoration to health; and if you chance to see him pedalling any of these fine mornings you will be agreeably surprised at the vigor and heartiness which he displays. Apparently, he is aware that the tricyclist, no matter how illustrious a man he be, must earn his recreation by the sweat of his brow, for the roads have been dry and dusty, and the weather has not been of the choicest. And it is worthy of notice that Lord Salisbury only stops to give his legs a rest from pedalling when he pauses to lift his black wide-awake while he wipes away the beads of perspiration that proclaim his honest toil. The pace at which father and daughter proceed has been described by the latter as paternally slow, for the tricycle is not a very speedy machine as Lord Salisbury works it. Indeed, it not inaptly symbolizes the cumbersome machinery of our State and constitution, so steady and slow-moving is it.

Lord Salisbury, although no longer Minister of Foreign Affairs, still makes his headquarters at the Foreign Office, says a writer in an exchange. True, he has given up his old room, looking out on to the Horse Guards' parade, to Lord Lansdowne. But he has taken as his own room the ante-chamber which lies between the great reception room and the deputation chamber, and which, like these two apartments, looks out upon the great quadrangle surrounded by the Foreign, Indian, Colonial and Home Offices. The room in which Cabinet councils are held nowadays is the deputation room at the Foreign Office, so that Lord Salisbury has only to pass from his own room into the adjoining one in order to attend the meeting. In previous Administrations Cabinet councils used always to be held in the historic building, 10 Downing street, and it was to suit the convenience of Lord Salisbury that the locality was transferred to the Foreign Office.

Cat Sits on the Eggs.

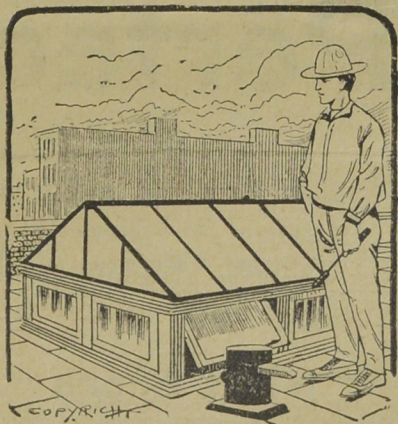
Mr. Louis Martin, of Yarmouth, has a Persian cat which daily takes turns with a cropper pigeon in sitting upon the latter's eggs. He has noticed pussy enter the pigeon cote several times, and kept watch. She has for nine days gone each morning between eight and nine through the entrance used by the pigeon into the locker, and remained upon the nest until one or two p. m. Twice when the pigeon was slow to leave, the cat pushed it off with her paw, and then stretched herself upon the nest. A photograph has been taken showing the pigeon, with the cat on its nest.

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