

London, July 7th.—Official accounts reaching here from Melbourne, Australia, telling of the escape of the Prince of Wales in his recent railway accident, say that the heir to the throne had an extremely narrow escape from serious injury or death. Only the bed clothes broke the Prince's fall when his coach was overthrown. An adjoining car caught fire and the Prince crawled through the window, the calmest person in the entourage. "Any how", he remarked, "I have done at least one thing that was not on the official programme".

Washington, July 7th.—Posiet Bay, last of the first rate harbours on the Asiatic Coast north of Port Arthur remaining in the possession of Russia, has passed into the hands of Japan according to official advices received here today which reported the occupation of the town by the Japanese troops. The harbour of Posiet Bay 57 miles south west of Vladivostok, and part of Russian Siberia, was considered for a time by Russia as the logical terminal of the Trans-Siberian Railway in preference to Vladivostok, on account of the excellent facilities offered by its natural position. Possession of the bay, together with other ports occupied by the Japanese this year on the Asiatic Coast, according to official advices, gives Japan not only all salt water terminals of the Manchurian and Siberian railways, but every possible future terminal.

Washington, July 7th.—A pronounced earthquake was record here today at the Georgetown University, Seismographical Observatory. The disturbance began at 1.59 o'clock and continued until 2.53 o'clock, reaching its height at 2.09 o'clock. The centre of the disturbance was calculated at 2,500 miles from Washington, probably in Central or South America.

St. Thomas, July 9th.—Communication with St. Vincent and Grenada restored.

INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.

From time to time in the last two or three years, reference has been made in this Journal to various schemes proposed to discover economic sources whence supplies of alcohol for providing power to motor engines, etc., could be obtained.

The Board of Trade Journal, March 4, 1920, publishes the report of a sub-Committee appointed on November 27, 1919, by the Standing Committee on the Investigation of Prices (Profiteering Act, 1919) to investigate costs, prices and profits at all stages in respect of Petrol, Benzole, and other Motor Fuels. The sub-Committee's report, dated February 17, 1920, has now been issued by the Board of Trade.

Among the general decisions of the report, the following relate to the above mentioned question: "The sub-Committee

find that power alcohol is the only potentially unlimited source of supply of motor spirit; and that the Government should use every possible means to foster the production of power alcohol, and place no restriction on the production and use of power alcohol in the United Kingdom."

The subject is attracting popular interest in the United Kingdom, as is evidenced by a cartoon in *Punch*, March 10, 1920, with the title 'A Converted Spirit.' The cartoon represents Silenus seated on a cask which bears the inscription 'Alcohol for Internal Consumption,' the latter word having a line drawn through it, and the word 'Combustion' printed below. From the tap of the cask there is flowing a stream of spirit through a funnel into a can labelled 'Motor Spirit,' many similar cans lying near by, while motorists hurry up from all sides. The legend beneath the cartoon is as follows: 'Genius of Alcohol. "And to think that I was once regarded as an impediment to locomotion."—*Agricultural News*.'

AN INTERESTING CEMETERY.

To tourists in the Philippines the cemetery at Manila is a very interesting spot. The resting place of the dead is enclosed within a huge wall of masonry, seven or eight feet thick and ten feet high. A strong gate of wood and iron guards the one entrance. The interior is honeycombed with crypts. Here the coffins are placed. As each crypt is filled it is sealed, and a small tablet bearing the name of the dead is securely fastened in front. Often the space is made long so as to leave a small space in front of the coffin. The rear of this box like space is closed with the tablet bearing the inscription and in the front is inserted a pane of glass. Within this space may be seen images, urns, or ornaments, having a religious sentiment. These crypts are rented by relatives or friends of the departed. The cheapest are \$25 a year, other rent for more. If the rent is not paid, the corpse is unfortunately taken out and buried in the potter's field.—*Everyday Life*.

SLEEP?

The other day a medical man, consulted by a patient who feared insomnia, instead of prescribing the expected drug, merely told his patient how to sleep. The threatened insomnia was banished. One should lie on the right side not because this affects the heart, but because it relieves pressure on the digestive organs.

But the right side is not "a full right". There should be a slight tilt to the left, so that the right shoulder blade, and not just the shoulder, takes the weight.

The proper position is to elevate the feet three inches or so higher than

the head, and just to "crook" the legs slightly. Head pillows should not be used, or but just a small one. And that should come under the neck. Nature's pillow is the sleeper's own right arm curved. Bedclothing should be just sufficient for warmth. Over weight or over tightness—some sheets are tucked in much too tightly—induce restlessness which may easily develop into insomnia, which is as much a habit as a disease.

Each individual has a nervous system which is his own, and unlike anyone else's. It is, therefore, advisable, in the case of persistent inability to sleep, to move the bedstead. Try an east-west position, instead of a north-south, or vice versa. The sleeping result may surprise you.—*Ibid*.

KING GEORGE WINS \$52,575 VERDICT.

The jury before Supreme Court Justice Guy that has heard the suit of King George of Great Britain against Ernest Harrah, a steel broker, of New York, to recover damages for breach of a contract to deliver scrap steel during the war, returned a verdict for \$52,575. The complaint asked for \$175,000. The defense was that the non delivery of part of the contract was justified because Harrah had an idea that payment would not be made and knew it would be impossible for him to sue the British Monarch.—*Porto Rico Progress*.

SILENT MACHINE GUN IS SECRETLY TESTED

WASHINGTON, June 23.—A new model of machine gun, operating by centrifugal force and using no explosive, is being secretly tested by army officials and other governmental experts at the Bureau of Standards. The weapon is said to have a capacity of 11,000 shots a minute against the 500 or 600 of the present types of explosive gun.

The great advantage of the centrifugal gun, army experts says, will be in its noiseless operation.

The gun consists of a rotating barrel, approximately onehalf inch in diameter, attached to motor-driven shafts, the speed of which is under instant control. By varying the speed of the driving shaft the operator controls the range.—*The World*, June 24th.

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