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for the same amount that she paid the local practitioner."

"Heavens!" I cried. "And you accepted it! I'm surprised you didn't sue her!"

At this he smiled, but not in the old, sneering way. I inspected him keenly and saw that he was different. He had changed altogether somehow, and, by George, he looked younger, too, now I come to consider it.

"I don't think that I shall trouble the courts much more," he was saying. "I've revised some of my opinions a little. You see, the other day I found that I was going quite the wrong way about things. My theory wouldn't stand the test."

"Good Lord!" said I.

He took my arm and we turned westward. "Come to lunch," he suggested, "and I'll tell you all about it. After all, if one never confessed one's mistakes, the world wouldn't be worth living in."

The End.

HUNT FOR MAN MONKEY.

AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO FIND THE MISSING LINK.

Anxious to discover the "Missing Link," Mr J. P. Morgan has, with others, subscribed 250,000 dollars for the purpose of a scientific quest. Expeditions are to be sent out equipped for five years' labours, and they will begin their search at Peking. Archaeologists, anthropologists, zoologists, and palaeontologists are being mobilised for the enterprise, and a geologist will take Mongolia in hand.

The supreme objective is proof of man's pedigree from the ape, long suspected but without evidence hitherto (says the "Daily News" New York correspondent). The belief it is sought to test is that man's original home was the Central Asian plateau.

Mr Harriman, of shipping fame, is with Mr Morgan in the latest venture, which it is hoped will produce evidence to supersede the well-known jaw of the Heidelberg man 250,000 years old, and even the fossilised skull with two molar teeth discovered in Java by the Dutchman Dubois in 1891.

(The quest for the missing link between man and the ape dates from the acceptance of the Darwinian theory. Hitherto the discovery made by Mr Dubois has been regarded as the most important piece of evidence in support of that theory. The skull or, more correctly, skull-cap which he found at Trinil, in Java, was of the monkey type, while a thigh-bone which accompanied it was declared by anatomists to be human. Dr Dubois accordingly decided that the remains were those of an animal intermediate between the two).

WONDERFUL NEW INSTRUMENT.

An instrument that can detect the presence of a man 200 yards away merely by the heat his body radiates seems almost incredible, but that is only because most of our natural senses are so dull compared to the artificial senses devised by science, says "Everyday Science."

Such an instrument was perfected just before the end of the war, and would probably have been used if the fighting had lasted another winter. It consists of a thermopile, or very sensitive thermometer, set in the focus of a concave mirror, together with a galvanometer. The heat radiations of any object warmer than the surrounding atmosphere, when focussed by the mirror, act on the thermopile and cause deflections of the galvanometer.

In actual tests on cold nights the instrument recorded the heat rays from the body of a man 600 feet away, and a man lying in a shell-hole 400 feet away was detected as soon as he lifted his head above the ground level. No man could cross the range of the instrument without his presence being indicated. The instrument was to have been used for watching No Man's Land on winter nights, and giving warning of raids.

A German version of the battle of Jutland comes from Von Haase, a gunnery officer on the Derfflinger, who, describing the "death-voyage" of the battle-cruisers, says that the Germans were cut off from their base, almost entirely surrounded, and in the "wurstkessel" (i.e., sausage-boiler, or in the last extremity). The cruisers and torpedo-boats were ordered, if necessary, to sacrifice themselves ruthlessly to save the rest of the fleet, and even to attempt to ram the enemy. The Derfflinger at this stage was crippled and helpless, and at the mercy of her foes. Her guns were out of action, her signalling apparatus had been destroyed, and 3,400 tons of water was aboard when suddenly the action was broken off. "When the sun rose on the morrow," says Von Haase, "a weight fell from our hearts, for the enemy was out of sight."

TUATAPERE SPORTS.

LARGE ATTENDANCE.

The Tuatapere Athletic Society had good weather for their annual gathering on Saturday, and the attendance was on a large scale, the gate takings amounting to £92 10s, as against £77 3s last year. To those who have not seen the Waiau and its surroundings such an occasion affords an opportunity of paying a visit under the most auspicious circumstances, and many no doubt travelled west not to see the sports alone, but this most recently settled district of Southland. In former years the sports ground has been on this side of the river, but the committee has chosen another area on the west, which in course of time should meet all the demands the Society is likely to put upon it, but which at present is not in a condition to permit of the best performances by athletes. It is certainly an ideally situated spot, and with a little expenditure should meet all requirements. A long programme had been arranged, the principal events consisting of chopping and sawing, and the substantial prizes attracted competitors from long distances. Perhaps nothing better has been seen in the district outside Invercargill in the way of sports of the kind. The entries were numerous, involving heats in every instance, and the choppers and sawyers knew their business, the result being fast times. The sprinting and running generally was affected, as before stated, by the roughness of the track, still the races were interesting. A. J. N. Brown, of Otautau, won both the Sheffield and 220 yards, and ran a dead-heat in the 75 yards. H. G. McLeod, at one time New Zealand mile champion, gained a first and second. The juvenile dancing revealed some clever young performers. To get the programme through in the scheduled time required the committee to start out with a set purpose and adhere to it throughout, and the secretary (Mr M. Dowling) and the others who undertook the management deserve credit for the way the programme was carried through. The sawing and chopping events, which were largely under the control of Mr T. O'Byrne, were efficiently managed, and generally the Tuatapere Society's 1921 gathering was one that should give satisfaction to all concerned. The local Pipe Band and other pipers were present, so there was ample music. Following were the results of the events:

CHOPPING AND SAWING.

12in Maiden Handicap Chap (underhand).—P. Scott (7sec) 1, N. Whipp (7sec) 2, W. Ackers (scr) 3. Time, 45 2-5sec.

18in Double-hand Sawing Handicap.—Phillips Bros. (5sec) 1.

18in Single-hand Sawing Handicap.—A. L. Chisholm (10sec) 1, D. Johnston (scr.) 2, J. Phillips (2sec) 3.

Plumb 15in Underhand Chop Handicap (1st £75 and gold medal, 2nd £5, 3rd £4, 4th £1; winners of heats, not placed in the final, £1).—G. Blanks (27sec) 1, W. Bone (12sec) 2, R. McKenzie (30sec) 3, J. Pont (scr) 4. Time, 1min 10 1-5sec.

RUNNING.

75 Yards Handicap (open).—A. J. N. Brown (6yds) and J. Jamieson (24yds), dead heat, 1, J. McKenzie (64yds) 3.

1 Mile Handicap (open).—H. G. McLeod (scr) 1, M. Cahill (20yds) 2.

135 Yards (open); 1st £10 and special prize of £5 5s, 2nd £5, 3rd £2, 4th £1.—A. J. N. Brown (10yds) 1, J. Jamieson (5yds) 2, P. Cahill (10yds) 3, J. O'Callaghan (1yd) 4.

Half Mile Handicap (open).—M. Cahill (4yds) 1, H. G. McLeod (scr) 2, E. H. Diack (10yds) 3.

220 Yards (open).—A. J. N. Brown (14yds) 1, J. Jamieson (4yds) 2, J. McKenzie (16yds) 3.

Ladies' Race (16 years and over).—Miss Cameron 1, Miss Grey 2, Miss McMillan 3.

100 Yards District Handicap (within 10 miles of Tuatapere).—W. Cosgriff 1, E. Evans 2, G. Flanagan 3.

Girls' Race.—M. Dowling 1, B. Weir 2, L. Branks 3.

DANCING.

Highland Fling (boys or girls, 16 years or under).—Miss A. Mathieson 1, W. Batt 2, Miss J. Mathieson 3.

Highland Fling (boys or girls under 12 years).—Miss A. Mathieson 1, Miss J. Mathieson 2.

Irish Jig (boys and girls, 16 years and under).—W. Batt 1, Miss A. Mathieson 2.

Hornpipe (boys or girls, 16 years and under).—W. Batt 1, Miss A. Mathieson 2.

Sword Dance (boys or girls under 16 years).—W. Batt 1, Miss A. Mathieson 2.

Sword Dance (boys or girls under 12 years).—Miss J. Mathieson 1, Miss A. Mathieson 2.

Special Prize: Miss J. Mathieson.

The cost of Columbus' expedition that led to the discovery of America was £1400.

Ten acres of land next the railway station at Aramoho, formerly owned by Mr John Walker, has been purchased by the Wanganui Woollen Mills Company, for the purpose of erecting its mills.

THE MYTH OF MAGNA CARTA.

SOME COMMON ERRORS REFUTED.

No document in English history has been more misunderstood than Magna Carta, writes Professor Ernest Scott in the Melbourne "Argus." The halo of superstition has gathered around it. Too commonly it has been supposed to be the foundation of British liberties and to contain the principles of the Habeas Corpus Act, trial by jury, no taxation without representation, and many other important things. In fact, it embodies no allusion to any of these developments. There is nothing in Magna Carta that was sound law generations earlier, and nothing was inserted in it which can be regarded as the origin of any British institution. Much of what is popularly believed about it is pure myth. The truth is that the entire Charter was a formal guarantee of the rights and privileges of the baronial aristocracy, the knights, the "freemen," and the merchants, all of whom were, as the cant phrase goes, "class conscious." It did nothing to protect the peasantry, except to the extent that they were assets of the estates of their lords; nor did it protect those artisans of the towns who were not "freemen" in the medieval sense of the word. Magna Carta was, in short, a statement of baronial privileges, with the addition of some provisions for the benefit of persons of lesser rank, but none for those who had not emerged from the condition of villeinage, the most numerous class in the country. It was not, even in a remote degree, a democratic instrument. If any villein in the thirteenth century had ventured to assert such principles as the Labour movement is now supposed to represent, his fate, in all probability, would not have been a happy one.

Another common error concerning Magna Carta is illustrated by a statement of Senator Gardiner in the Jerger debate. He described the misgovernment of King John as having brought "an organisation into existence which drafted quite an exemplary charter of liberty." This organisation "was so powerful that it was able to force the King to sign that charter." Well, King John did not "sign that charter." There are no signatures upon it. Anyone who has seen the two original copies at the British Museum, or the facsimile at the Melbourne Public Library, will recognise that it is utterly erroneous to speak of the "signing" of Magna Carta. It was sealed, not signed. Some text books of history in use in schools make this mistake, and artists who have essayed to represent the scene at Runnymede almost invariably show King John with his crown on his head and a vicious expression on his face, dashing off his signature with a large quill pen. I have one gorgeous picture—all blue and scarlet and gold—which shows the King writing his name with what looks like a fountain pen but may be a wooden one—in any case it is absurd. John used no pen; he signified his assent, and the Royal seal was affixed to the parchment by his direction. (See on this point the recent correspondence in "The Times," which brought out the interesting fact that there is not in existence any signature of an English King earlier than Edward III.)

Much of the glamour which has contributed to the creation of the Magna Carta myth arises from its name. It was not known as the Great Charter to contemporaries any more than Domesday Book was known under that name to William I and his chancery officials. It was known as the Carta Baronum, or sometimes as the Carta Libertatum. Not till the reign of Henry III did the name which it now bears come into use, and then there is good reason to believe "Magna" was applied to it, not because its contents were supposed to be particularly important, but to distinguish it from a smaller charter—"parva carta"—which had been granted by Henry III. If this theory of the name be correct, "Magna" was descriptive of the size of the charter of King John, in comparison with that of Henry III, and had no relation to its contents.

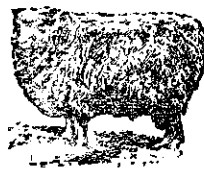
Nor, indeed, was there any particular reason why contemporaries should regard the charter as "Magna" in any other sense. It was very important that John's barons obtained the King's formal assent to a plain statement of old law, from which he had departed, but the barons were not innovators. They were not making new law, but compelling the observance by a refractory king of sound English custom. It granted no fresh liberties to anybody. It was essentially a feudal instrument, forced at the sword's point upon a king who had grievously offended the baronial class.

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