

SHEER PLAN OF P. McDONNELL'S AIR-SHIP.

"This electric current, too, would create a luminosity such as by passing an electric current through a glass tube having most of the air withdrawn, as the conditions would be identical, only on a larger scale. This light and current would afford sufficient heat and energy for plant and animal life. The existence of this electric force is explained by the dipping of the compass needle about one thousand miles this side of the Poles on the outer surface."

This idea of the North Pole being the beginning of a new continent is not altogether the product of the mind's fancy. Lieutenant Lockwood and Sergeant Brainard, of the Greely furthest north expedition, reached the eighty-first parallel and found evidences of a former civilisation so recent in character as to lead to the belief that the people, whoever they might be, had in a recent century evacuated their land for one of a milder climate.

Each vessel will have a speed of sixty miles an hour in a calm, it is claimed, and will be able to sustain itself at the full power of its motors for at least six days without replenishment.

Each airship, when complete, will be 450 feet long and fifty-five feet in diameter, composed of a tubular bridged framework having metal cones on each end, the whole covered with a gaslight envelope, and sufficiently rigid to resist the pressure of the air at one hundred miles an hour speed. A cabin, fifty feet long, twenty feet wide and fourteen feet high, having an upper and lower compartment, is rigidly attached to any part of this framework, and will be water and air tight when the ports and doors are closed.

The upper or storage compartment of the cabin will be six feet high. The lower compartment will be eight feet high and will be used for the crew, motors and other machinery. It will be divided into six sleeping rooms, one dining room with kitchen, one office or captain's stateroom and a pilot and engineer's space in front. The rest of the space is set apart for the motors and other equipment. The partitions are formed of cable padded with a light material, which carry the cabin floors, as well as make the divisions. The outer walls of the cabin are of the same material.

The combination of the cabin and framework is such as to do away with the netting heretofore used on dirigible and other balloons. The framework, with its gaslight cover, constitutes the buoyant body, having 700,000 cubic feet of space. It is divided by gaslight partitions every twenty-five feet of its length, forming eighteen compartments, sixteen of which are used for gas.

The two centre compartments above the cabin are used as expansion chambers, and are of 100,000 cubic feet capacity, and are open with the outer air freely. The gas, however, is enclosed by two movable partitions, which drive the air out when the gas expands by high altitude or high temperature, and draws it back again by contraction automatically.

This leaves 600,000 cubic feet for buoyancy, which, with hydrogen, has a lifting power of twenty-two and one-half tons. The complete ship, without the machinery, will weigh ten and one-half tons. Four motors of fifty horse-power each, will weigh two tons. Ten and one-half tons will be allowed for crew, storage and fuel, leaving one-half ton to be lifted by the motors.

The National Cigarette.

There is a fight royal going on for the British cigarette, and the parties are the United States and Britain.

The pipe seems to take a back seat to-day, so, in considering the national consumption of tobacco at Home, we will suppose that it forms one gigantic cigarette.

The national cigarette has grown enormously since 1841, as the diagram shows. In 1841 our fathers were content with a 13oz cigarette a year. The sons require 2lbs 0oz to the

2966 in all. Taking this average for the rest of Asia, the death rate on that continent from animals alone may be put at 4500 a year, of which number tigers are responsible for 1500, wolves for 600, leopards for about 450. Wolves have a far wider range than leopards.

Lions account for some 600 lives yearly in Africa, other animals for 800, while the toll to jaguars in South America, panthers in North, wolves and other dangerous beasts all over the world may be calculated on a population basis at a further 1800.

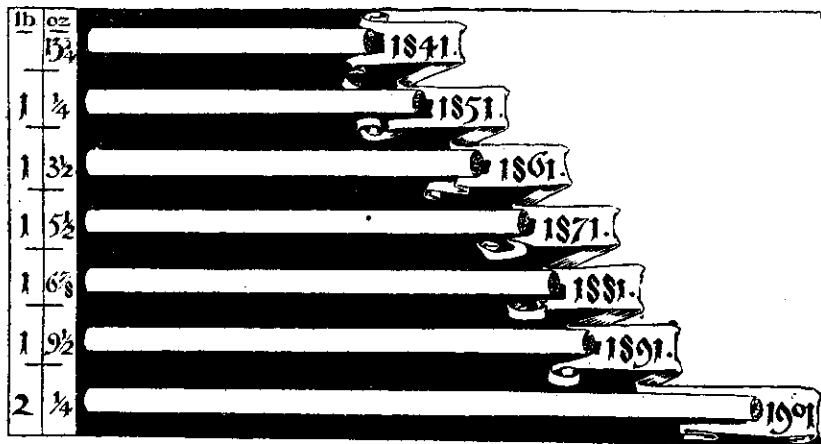
But this total of 7700 is only the beginning of lives lost to the forest kings. Cobras and other coiling death

rattlesnake, moccasin, and fer de lance account for another 1500 in the northern half of the continent.

Add a further 2000 for the great Polynesian Islands, Australia, and Europe, the total yearly loss of life by snakes amounts to 47,000. Wild beasts and snakes between them killed 5,470,000 persons during the Nineteenth Century.



Wolves manage to dispose of 600 persons per annum, a large number of whom are subjects of the Czar.



A Diagram showing the growth of the national cigarette since 1841. In fifty years the consumption has more than doubled.

cigarette of 1901. This figure is arrived at by dividing the total amount of tobacco consumed among the whole population. But if non-smokers are omitted, the smokers will be found to consume about 8lbs per head. In 1841 there were 26,700,000 people in the United Kingdom, and 23,096,281lbs of tobacco was consumed. This gave a cigarette of 13 1/2 ounces each.

In 1891 we numbered 37,740,000 people; the national cigarette now therefore is more than double the size of the cigarette of 1841.

The Toll of Tooth and Claw.

7,700 PEOPLE ARE YEARLY KILLED BY WILD ANIMALS.

(From "The Pictorial Magazine.")

Last year, in India, tigers killed 899 people, wolves 338, leopards 327. 1402 more met their deaths by the teeth, horns, or claws of other animals; or

dealers killed 24,621 human beings in India last year, and that despite the fact that rewards were paid for the death of 108,000 reptiles.

Snakes, principally cobras, account for a full 35,000 of Asia's yearly death roll. Africa, the home of the vipers and hideous puff adder, adds 6000 to this list.



The deaths arising from snake bites in India every year almost pass belief, and in the Asiatic Continent total to no less than 35,000.

South America comes next. The bush master, and many swamp snakes, besides the giant anaconda, claim their share of lives.



The man-eating tiger alone disposes of 1,500 persons yearly, heading the list of animals that dine off mankind.



450 deaths are credited to the ferocious leopard in the course of every twelve months.

Not less than 2500 South Americans die yearly from snake bite, while



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