

Italian and His Smoke Dispelling Cannon



DEMETRIO MAGGIORA

WOULD BANISH FOGS

M. MAGGIORA AGREES TO DISPELL LONDON MISTS.

Proposes to Place Huge "Projectors" Around City and by Firing Them Raise Clouds to High Altitude.

London.—Italian skies for London. This seems beyond the wildest dreams of any resident, as well as of any visitor who has endured the fogs of the world's greatest city.

Yet, just this is what is proposed to be accomplished by M. Demetrio Maggiora. Strange to say, the instrument he is to employ is identical with the one sometimes employed to bring on rain in a season unreasonably dry—not in London, of course, for droughts are not one of the features of that climate.

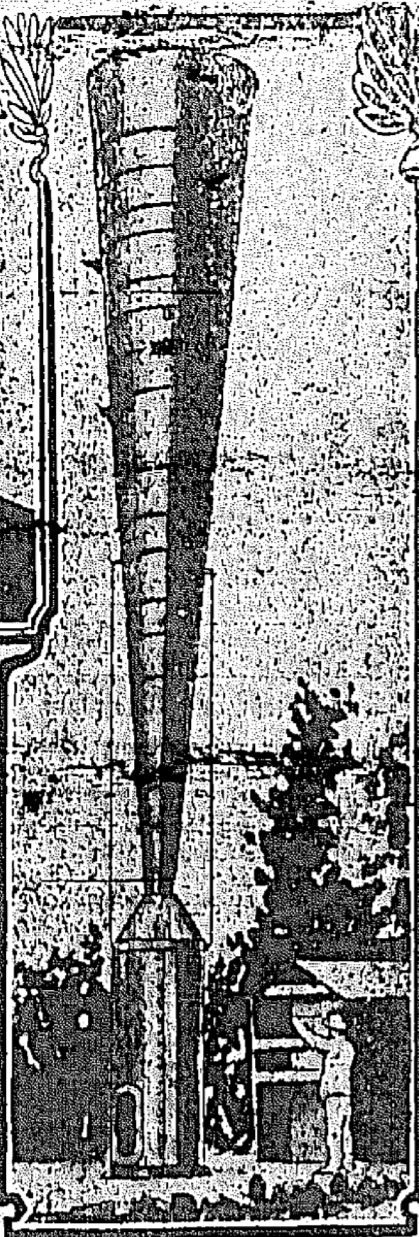
M. Maggiora expects to use cannon. M. Maggiora proposes to place "projectors," or cannon, each 60 feet long, at points six miles from the houses of parliament, and then, by shooting at an angle over the metropolis, create an atmospheric movement which will lift the densest fog in minutes.

"The plans are all ready, and I am simply waiting for the decision of the public control committee of the London county council to determine whether or not when I shall have a first trial," said M. Maggiora. "I am confident of success in London."

"How does the scheme work? My projectors, acting like cannon, have a chamber at the base in which a gas explosion is caused. This creates a vibration, or concussion, in the air effective for a distance of six miles.

"Now, the cannon ranged at an upward angle toward a given point—say, over the houses of parliament—would create a lifting of the lower strata of the atmosphere. Fog exists simply from lack of air movement. Consequently, when the air currents start the fog will rise to an altitude where the wind will carry it away. This is not theory, but fact, often demonstrated at Milan.

"Anyone can experiment with the principle in a small way. Take a glass half filled with water. Gently fill the upper and empty part with cigarette smoke. You will see that the smoke, which represents the fog, will hang over the water. Take a small straw



MAGGIORA'S SMOKE CANNON

and blow through it straight over the top of the glass and the smoke will still remain. But incline the tiny stream downward and instantly the smoke will vanish.

"Similarly my projectors, by setting up strong air currents, will lift the yellowest or blackest fog that ever settled in the Thames valley. Under the pressure of the explosion (which will not be either heard or felt in any part of London) the volume of air coming from the cannon attains a rotary movement with a speed of 400 yards a second, and is capable of attaining a height of 4,000 yards, while the concussion reaches 30 miles.

"From ten projectors ought to be used as a permanent anti-fog apparatus for London, but at first I shall use only one. With this I shall be able sufficiently to demonstrate the feasibility of the scheme. Twenty explosions, coating sevenpence each, will dispel any fog in 20 minutes.

"Clouds also may be scattered. This, however, requires constant explosions. At Milan we were able to keep blue sky over the city for hours while clouds floated all around. Suppose some grand outdoor event were to be celebrated in London, involving great expense, and the comfort of thousands of spectators, it would certainly be an advantage if rain could be artificially kept off."

"One of the most remarkable feats promised by M. Maggiora is that by his air cannon he will be able to prevent long periods of rainy weather and bring sunshine by scattering the darkest clouds.

"The total cost of erecting a cannon would be \$40,000. The explosions are obtained by acetylene gas.

NEW RELIGIOUS SECT

STRANGE MISSION CAUSING EXCITEMENT IN GEORGIA.

Fervor of "Pentecostal Band" Is Remarkable—Converts from Other Creeds—Odd Modes of Worship.

Valdosta, Ga.—A new religious sect calling itself the Pentecostal band has been conducting revival services in this city recently, and has within the past few days awakened considerable excitement by the modes of worship in the mission and the extraordinary methods of prayer.

Many of the attendants at the mission have had the "power of the unknown tongue" conferred upon them, being enabled, it is claimed, to speak two or three languages in addition to their own. The adherents claim that this power to speak other languages is a manifestation of the Holy Ghost, and evidence that the person who receives the power has also received the "second blessing." The power, or "gift," or whatever it may be termed, comes on the members while at worship, their entire nervous system being seemingly wrought to the highest tension. At such times their bodies are shaken as if by palsy, every muscle apparently being a quiver. They fall from their seats and roll over the floor in an excess of religious excitement.

Many of them, when the "power" comes on them, are unable to speak a word of their native language for hours to come. They do not know what they are saying, or attempting to say, and their speech is unintelligible to others. One well known lady here who received the power began to speak in an unknown tongue, which, it is claimed, proved to be pure Latin, though she knew nothing of this language. Others who know nothing but English claim to be able to converse with Syrians, Hebrews and other foreigners whom they meet.

Great crowds have been attracted to the mission over a store on Central avenue, where services are held twice a day by Frankella and Juliette. The converts are members of all denominations—Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and so on.

The members of the band say they have been sent to warn the people of the second coming of Christ, which momentous event will occur in a very short time. The converts claim that it is alleged, had a vision of the Lord, or visited the celestial regions in the spirit, and give graphic descriptions of the abode of the blessed.

OLDEST TWINS IN MICHIGAN.

Ell D. Sprague and Sister Are Halo and Hearty at Eighty-Two.

Middleville, Mich.—Probably the oldest living twins in Michigan are Ell D. Sprague and Mary D. Sprague Young. They are both hale and hearty, and were 82 years of age March 27. They reside three miles south of Middleville.

These twins are the eighth generation from Ralph Sprague and John Turner, who came from England in 1638 and settled in Massachusetts. Their father, John Sprague, was born in 1783, and their mother, Diantha Turner, was born in 1785. Their descendants, Ell D. and Mary D., were born in Murray, Orleans county, N. Y., in 1825, and they moved with their father's family to Middleville the same year. Ell has made his home with her son James since her husband's death about ten years ago.

Ell married Miss Eliza Brewin, of Middleville, in 1851, who died in 1853. Three children were born—this union, all of whom are deceased. In 1870 he married Mrs. Lucinda Matison, who died in 1905. Ell was in the freight and express business in Middleville until 1884, when he removed to Lansing. He was also president of the village in an early day. Of all years he has made his home with his stepdaughter, Mrs. Frances Lester, wife of Rev. Clement S. Lester, of Lansing.

When their parents came through Michigan in 1851, the village had only one frame house.

TURTLE KEEPS ON BITING.

Though Decapitated, Snapper's Nip Pers On to Boy's Leg.

Beaver Falls, Pa.—Jimmie Roberts, the ten-year-old son of William Roberts, a Beaver county farmer, used to laugh at folks who thought turtles could bite after being decapitated. His wit was true.

The elder Roberts caught a 20-pound turtle in the Little Beaver river and took it home. Jimmie teased the turtle by poking sticks at it, but getting too close, it seized his leg, and all efforts to make it let go proved futile. Hot pepper was thrown in its eyes, kerosene was squirted into its mouth and finally a hot pot of water was thrown between its jaws, but still it kept on, while Jimmie howled with pain and anger.

Finally Mrs. Roberts cut the turtle's tail and while she snuffed all its neck was stretched the former out of its head with a carving knife. She detached the turtle's body from the boy, but the jaws retained their hold on his leg. Mr. Roberts, Jimmie and the turtle's head got into a buggy and hurried to the office of Dr. E. C. Kerwin, of Romowood.

The physician succeeded in cutting the turtle's head from the boy's leg. An ugly hole that will be a long time in healing was left.

NEW RECORD FOR KANSAS CROPS

State Agricultural Officer Estimates Value of Products for the Year.

Topeka, Kan.—The annual report for the year issued by Secretary Coburn, of the state board of agriculture, makes the greatest showing in value in the history of the state. The report shows these remarkable facts:

Aggregate agricultural and live stock products for the year were worth \$163,648,800, which is \$20,313,730 ahead of the record.

Wheat production was 74,155,695 bushels; average per acre, 10.21 bushels; value, 75.5 cents per bushel; aggregate value, \$56,787,512, or \$1,608,901 in excess of any preceding year.

Corn production, 115,288,328 bushels; average per acre, 21.54 bushels; average, 45.22 cents per bushel; aggregate value, \$52,940,743, or \$6,253,232 greater than wheat.

Value of products of the year per capita of population, \$280.

The report shows that in the past ten years the population of the state has increased 20 per cent, while the value of the agricultural and live stock products has increased 50 per cent.

Incidentally, Mr. Coburn draws a moral in his report concerning "wheat rust," which the United States department of agriculture's experts are trying to introduce into this semi-arid belt. Mr. Coburn shows that wheat rust, which yielded 50 per cent less per acre, and brought 11.6 cents less per bushel.

"PRISONERS" LIVE AT HOME.

Trampless Illinois County Has No Use for Jail.

Hardy, Ill.—Calloway county, which has no railroad, and therefore no tramps, has abandoned the time-honored custom of feeding offenders against town ordinances. In this town, the county seat, four men are living at home and working out fines by daily labor on the village streets. They are pleased on their honor to work every day, just as they would have to do if they spent their nights in the town calaboose. In return for the courtesy of being allowed to sleep at home, they waive the usual claim to free board.

Being arrested is a very mild matter, the way that arrests are made in the kingdom of Calhoun. Walter Adams, town marshal of Hardy, may be talking about the crops or the weather to a man who has just suddenly remember something and say: "Oh, by the way, Josh, there's a kind of a charge of something that was against you. I expect you better come up to court on Friday and talk to the judge about it."

If Josh says he will come, no other bond is required of him, and the defendant thus far notified in this manner have all appeared for trial.

RUNS AWAY FROM RICHES.

Ball Player Goes to Alaska, for Good and Falls Heir to Fortune.

Tacoma, Wash.—Edward W. Ross, 24 years old, who for the last three years has played baseball at Fairbanks, Alaska, and sought in vain for pay gravel on northern creeks, now learns of a gold mine at his old home in Ohio which he had neglected.

He received a letter the other day from his half-sister, who lives at Barberton, O., telling him that he was heir to half of his Uncle Ephraim's estate. The letter was the first word Edward Ross had received from his relatives in six years. He was a thoughtless boy of 14 when he left home. For several years he wrote to his mother, but intervals between became greater, until six years ago he ceased writing altogether. He played ball with Horgan, Sedro Woolley, and Astoria for a season or two, and then went to Alaska.

While Ross was pitching ball in the west his uncle, Ephraim Ross, a substantial banker of Mansfield, O., died, leaving his property, valued at \$250,000, to Eddie and his only brother. The heir was located after a long search and much advertising. Eddie has started east to claim his Ohio gold mine.

JUST BACK FROM '61 WAR.

Veteran Finds Wife Was Buried by Third Husband.

Waterbury, Conn.—After an absence of 45 years Barnes Gilbert returned to Connecticut, stopping at New Haven to see an old-time Yale friend, Charles B. Everett. He found that Everett had died 43 years ago, and the latter's widow returned to Gilbert a bracelet and big gold watch deposited with her husband by Gilbert when the latter left the state to join the union forces.

His own wife, whom he had left during a quarrel, he found had been buried in Pine Grove cemetery by her third husband, she having supposed that he had been killed in the war. Gilbert was in the wilds of Arizona. He left town for the war because he was anxious to escape arrest for whipping a policeman. The policeman, now a crippled peddler, was the first man to greet Gilbert when the latter jumped from the train at New Haven.

WORKMAN DROPPED IN DEADLY ACID.

Philadelphia.—Standing on a chair on the second floor of the Camden White Lead works, Samuel Wissing, an employe, had his right hand caught in shafting and was whirled about by a swift-moving belt. When he pulled himself loose he fell in a pot of acid and was so terribly burned that he died in Cooper hospital shortly after being admitted. Wissing was 23 years old.

SEES EARTH DRYING UP.

Attention Called to Necessity of Protecting the Forests.

Berlin.—Prof. Hennig, one of the most brilliant of the German geologists, makes some startling predictions for the American continent when, owing to its being dotted with forests, he maintains that the earth is rapidly drying up. He draws his conclusions not only from such phenomena as the receding of glaciers, but from the carefully conducted experiments on springs and rivers in various parts of the world. Hennig says: "In nearly every country of Europe the supply of spring water and generally of subterranean moisture is rapidly decreasing. Our grandchildren will begin to feel the want of spring water in many places where now there is an abundant supply. One of the main reasons why hitherto the earth has retained its moisture has been that extensive forests covered its surface. But every year shows a startling diminution of forest area and hardly anything is being done for reforestation."

"The United States is a horrible example. These tracts, as big as European states, will be arid to all eternity, which might have been prevented for culture by wise economy of the forests. Countries which play fast and loose with their forests are simply hastening their downfall."

Prof. Hennig also draws attention to the encroachments of sand, and drought on so many regions in Asia, Africa, Australia and America. "Once you have a huge sand tract of alkali—a tract like the Sahara or the Gobi desert or the plains of the western states of America at your door, you cannot drive it back," he says. "Such tracts are bound to conquer in the end. Their advance is as certain as the advance of death and as disastrous."

PLAN TO FILL ARMY RANKS.

Picture Shows Will Be Given to Induce Young Men to Enlist.

New York.—Although it is not possible to move a military post about the country for the purpose of showing to possible recruits the actual work of the army, the latter's recruiting service is determined not to be outdone by the navy, which sent the gunboat Wasp to Hudson river and Long Island sound points in an effort to induce young men to join the navy. The army is about to use moving pictures as a means of showing to young men, who may be induced to enlist, all about life in the army.

A large number of films have been made and these will be sent through the country and turned over to moving picture shows. The proprietors of such shows will be asked to use as many of these pictures as possible, and after they have been shown for a few days a recruiting party will move into the town. It is expected that many recruits will be obtained in this manner.

The pictures show the life of the soldier in garrison, in camp and in field, and exhibit him at play as well as at work. Recruiting in New York is proving unusually successful just now. At one station 150 men were enlisted last month.

ENGINE HALTS RUNAWAYS.

Chasing Cars Down Grade for Miles, It Catches Up.

Norrisville, Pa.—Three freight cars broke loose from a train the other afternoon while climbing a steep grade on the Stony Creek railroad, near the entrance to the state hospital for the insane. They rushed down the grade at a speed of 30 miles an hour. Near Elm street the tracks of the Stony Creek railroad join those of the Reading railway, and the runaway cars proceeded in the direction of Philadelphia.

After they had passed Marshall, Main, DeKalb and Mill street stations in this town without accident, an engine left the roundhouse at Elm street and started in pursuit of the runaways.

The engine was speeded at a 50-mile clip and finally overtook and held up the cars between Moggetown and Ivy Rock.

CENTS USED AS WASHERS.

Huntington, L. I.—A curious discovery was made in connection with the construction of a sail boat that was sold at auction of Rev. Samuel T. Carter a few days ago. Each bolt and rivet in the craft has as a washer a big, old-fashioned copper cent.

It is learned from the "oldest inhabitant" that the boat was built a generation ago by the late Capt. Henry Ketchum, at Huntington Harbor. It was to be a boat for his own use, so he took particular care in its construction, and made a trip to New York to get a sufficient number of the big coppers.

MAKES PUPILS EAT HERBS.

Waterbury, Conn.—There was trouble in the school district of East Litchfield when it was discovered that one of the country teachers had abandoned the old method of chastisement, and had been compelling those disorderly to eat the wild turnips, boneset and wormwood.

The teacher believes in sparing the rod, and her method, she says, aimed at stopping the boys' blugging the chitneys, releasing mice and crickets and throwing pepper on the stove. Parents are angry and threaten suits.

SPORTS VS. MILLIONS

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE PREFERS FORMER TO LATTER.

President Rejects Bequest of Eccentric Quakeress, Made with a Condition and Directors Uphold Him.

Philadelphia.—Swarthmore college will reject the millions offered by Miss Inna Jeans, an eccentric Quakeress, who bequeathed the money to the institution on the condition that it give up all intercollegiate athletic contests, and particularly football.

President Joseph Swain, after asking the opinion of presidents of 24 colleges and universities, voiced the view to the trustees in a meeting at the college.

President Swain announced that he was opposed to the acceptance of the gift on the ground that the college's liberty should not be mortgaged. "Of course the wisdom," he said, "of accepting without qualification or condition the gift of Miss Jeans, but if the value of the gift is large, I am willing and even anxious to try the experiment with the understanding that the property shall revert to the executors of the estate in case the gift is found, after a fair trial, to be of less value to the highest interests of the college than the lack of freedom of the actions of the board, which the condition of the gift imposes."

The trustees said that the opinion of President Swain was unanimous with them and that the matter was practically closed. It was felt certain that the heirs of Miss Jeans would not agree to President Swain's proposition of an experiment, and that, even if they were agreeable, it was not likely that the law would allow them.

The terms of the will were explicit and forbade any experiment without the absolute acceptance of the provisions.

Among the college presidents consulted on the question of refusing the gift were those of Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, Pennsylvania and Chicago. The inquiries were as follows:

"In your opinion, have the trustees of a college a right to bind for all time the institution of learning by such restriction as the one mentioned? If so, should the gift be accepted in case it amounts to \$1,000,000 or more? If the gift should be \$50,000, what then?"

Harvard, Cornell, Chicago, Lehigh, Stanford, Jr., and Broad answered all three questions in the negative, while Columbia, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Michigan were noncommittal on the first two propositions. Every college communicated with said no in answer to the third question, while several smaller ones said yes in reply to the first and second.

President Swain estimated his strongest reasons for refusal as follows: "If the college agrees to give up intercollegiate athletics for a certain sum of money, why may it not agree to continue the intercollegiate athletics forever for a certain sum of money? Why not agree to have or not to have former military drill as a part of the college curriculum? If any body of trustees assumes to be wise enough to decide such a matter for a time, why not decide in a similar way the property of teachers or not teaching free silver or the gold standard, the doctrine of materialism, or what not?"

"Suppose that in the middle of the eighteenth century a college had been richly endowed on condition that it should teach loyalty to the king, or even more recently to justify human slavery. Can we imagine a more difficult position than that of an institution bound to a trust the terms of which had become absolutely at variance with society?"

HAZING IS OUT OF STYLE.

Students in West Virginia Attack the Wrong Freshmen.

New Martinsville, W. Va.—Hazing has suddenly gone out of style at the West Virginia Wesleyan college. Burkhamann, six upper class students went to the room of two tall, raw-boned freshmen after arranging a program that was expected to yield a hilarious hour or two. The two intended victims were named Hatfield and came from the Tug river district of the southwestern part of the state. They received the committee, it is said, with open arms and knives, and are reported to have sliced off a few chunks of the visitors as souvenirs.

The six closed in on the Hatfields, hoping to overpower them by force of numbers. After they revived they took an inventory, which showed that two had arms slashed, a third cut across the back, while others nursed sore heads. A doctor patched them up.

The Hatfields went to sleep with the feeling of homesickness removed. The faculty allowed the six to go home for meditation. One has been allowed to return to college, but the five others will have to be taken back by force, if it is understood, if the Hatfields remain.

FRANK JAMES A FARMER.

Lawton, Okla.—Frank James, the former Missouri outlaw, arrived at Fletcher, overland from Illinois, and will live on his quarter-section in the little pasture. His wife and the family of his son, Robert James, came with him. They will live in Fletcher until spring, when they will move upon the farm where Mr. James is having a neat cottage built.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS