

# NEWS OF THE EMPIRE

14 April 1892

A News-Paper Concerning the City of London, Portal to All Destinations

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## ELEVATED RAILWAYS IN DANGER?

Are the vaunted elevated railways that encircle and cross our fair city the worst danger to our security?

That is the opinion of this newspaper, whose newspapermen and editors find it deplorable that the policemen charged with protecting our fair city, the greatest city on Earth, and the crossroads nine worlds, have done absolutely nothing to safeguard it against merely one or two well-placed bombs or heat rays.

Indeed, the thousands of miles of elevated railroad tracks that support our city like a girdle could be hopelessly snarled by the actions of only a single fiend.

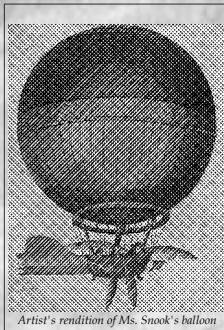
Imagine if the nefarious Fu Manchu, or the Blue Devils of Pluto, or any of the vile criminal organizations that even today still plague our fair city, were to destroy merely one of the dozen lines criss-crossing our skies? Merely damaging the line between Westminster and Waterloo would put our administration at great risk, not to mention the potential loss of life were this foul deed to be perpetrated while a train were hurtling along the tracks at speeds in excess of forty miles per hour!

## Murder! Shock! Danger! Mysterious killer still on the loose

Despite the best work of Scotland Yard's finest policemen and detectives, the Kensington Killer still stalks the streets. His victims marked only by a red ring around their necks and a peculiar odor on their persons, the twelfth victim

## THOUSANDS OF BALLOONS TO RACE IN JUBILEE

Enidia Snook can't wait for the Jubilee Balloon Race to commence April 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year, in which she will compete with thousands of others in a race around the city of London.



Artist's rendition of Ms. Snook's balloon

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the race is its length, traversing our city from Liverpool to Paddington, and Earl's Court to the finish line, racing across London Bridge (which, we trust, will not fall down according to the child's rhyme!).

The Jubilee Balloon Race is sponsored by the Mornington Crescent Balloon Racing Society and its renowned head, Baron Edward Cannon.

Mr. Cannon spoke of the event from the boarding platform of his own racing balloon, the *Queen's Intrepid*, which will not be flying in the event.

"This is a dashed good opportunity to show the world that British aerialists are the best in the world, and that's a fact you can bet on," he said, going on to make several disparaging remarks about other balloon racers from America and the Continent.

## EXPLOSION ROCKS PORTAL TO VENUS

### Portal may not re- open for weeks

No-one yet knows who was responsible for the terrible explosion that destroyed large sections of the ring portal to Venus at approximately 2:22 A.M. this morning.

Chief Detective Inspector Robert Bootblack was on the scene within minutes, and we are informed that he has been assigned to this case.

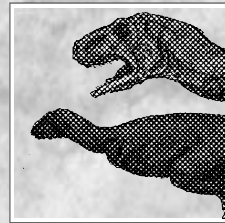
This news-paper has been informed that the damage is extensive but not irreparable. More details will be published as they become available.

## A.F. Forms Heavily Armored Battalion

The British Armed Forces yesterday announced the formation of the First Heavily Armored Foot Battalion, a special division of the British Army dedicated to facing the dangers of our new age.

Members of the new battalion will don specially-constructed armor, helmets, and glasses, reinforced with wires and electrical gadgetry at the uppermost limits of human engineering. According to the Army's claims, these "hard suits" will allow the soldier to see in the dark, carry much more powerful rifles—even those capable of firing many rounds of ammunition per second—and communicate wirelessly with their comrades and commanders.

## CARNIVAL OF PREHISTORIC DINOSAURS ARRIVES FOR JUBILEE



Mr. Josiah Weatherworm, proprietor of the Grand Circus and Exhibition of the Twentieth Century, has personally confirmed with this paper that his unique and exclusive exhibition of prehistoric dinosaurs, procured directly from the Dark Continent, will put on three shows daily, at 10:00 A.M., 3:00 P.M., and 7:00 P.M.

Many ancient beasts will be on-hand, held securely behind iron bars and fences. Animals on-hand will include a Sabre-Toothed Tiger, a Great Ape, a Giant Lizard, a clutch of Pterodactyls kept in a tremendous crystalline dome, and even that king of tyrant lizards himself, a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Mr. Weatherworm has insisted that all appropriate safety precautions have been rigorously made by the crew of his Circus. He assures this reporter that there will be no repeat of the Mastodon Affair of last year.

The Grand Circus and Exhibition of the Twentieth Century will exhibit in Hyde Park, near the Saturnian Acrobats and the Edison Company Weather Machine.

Children and adults of all ages are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

## DEATH PROVOKES INQUIRY

### ARE MECHANICAL MEN INTELLIGENT?

Some call it an accident; others call it murder. Whatever the cause, Elias Snodgrass lies dead in a coffin, killed while deactivating five mechanical men. His associate, a Mr. John Smith, claims he was killed by mechanical men.

The contraptions in question were assigned to The Beneath, cleaning the unmentionables that flow beneath the New Bailey building as it bobs gently above Newgate Street.

Mr. Smith insists that Mr. Snodgrass was turning the key on one mechanical man when the others—who had been commanded to stop and await their deactivation—turned on him and hit him over the head.

However, the Minister of Mechanization insists that this is simply not possible. "Mechanical men are not capable of independent thought or action," Minister Hollinger explained to the press this morning. "The possibility is firmly in the range of Mr. Verne's science fictional tales, not science fact."

Nevertheless, the five mechanical men are currently being held at the Ministry for further investigation.

## Tesla To Unveil Electronic Marvel Genius claims "greatest invention"

Nikola Tesla, famed scientist, has revealed to this news-paper exclusively his plans to unveil a

This steampunk setting for [the Risus RPG](#) was written by [Brent P. Newhall](#) in 2012. It is released into the public domain.