

NEWSPAPERS IN BIG TRUST

London Publisher Forecasts Possible, if Not Probable, Change in Journalism.

NOVEL IDEAS OF MR. HARMSWORTH

American and English Papers Are Compared to the Advantage of Those of the United States.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Alfred Harmsworth, editor and proprietor of the London Daily Mail, who is a passenger on the Teutonic due in New York tomorrow, has contributed to the January number of the North American Review an article on what he calls "The Simultaneous Newspapers of the Twentieth Century."

Mr. Harmsworth expresses the opinion that in spite of all the progress that has been made in the development of the newspapers hitherto, we are still merely at the fringe of journalistic development.

"An occasional newspaper illustration, if it can be properly produced, is no doubt a good thing and is appreciated as helpful by the reader, but many of the present-day illustrations are quite unnecessary and are merely given as a matter of habit, or because rival journals use them, and even for reasons that there is a certain amount of space to be decorated and artists or photographers to be kept occupied.

"With the newspapers of the whole civilized world before me," he says, "each week, I look in vain for any great and impressive stroke of originality or daring. We still cling to the clumsy and awkward shape in which our newspapers are issued and the man who has attempted to manipulate one of them on a windy day will best appreciate the force of my remarks. By the use of improved machinery it would be possible to issue the newspaper in a form in which it is obviously its proper form—a small portable and neatly indexed publication."

French Journalism Progressing. "Among the newspapers that are, in my opinion, now making progress, setting aside the entire lack of commercial morality, are some of the French journals. They have always been noted for their high literary excellence. The anonymous editorial has never been a particularly strong feature of the French newspaper. On the other hand, pure literature, in the shape of fiction or criticism, has been one of its chief characteristics."

"The power of the press is not what it used to be, in Mr. Harmsworth's opinion. This, he says, is especially true of England, where the editorial or leader, which was formerly read and quoted by all men of intelligence, is now scarcely glanced at. The great cry is for news. But, even in connection with the dissemination of news the press, in Mr. Harmsworth's judgment, has lost reputation."

He says: "Lately there has begun a kind of internecine warfare between the various organs of the press by which they very largely injure their own positions and that of their opponents. An item of news published in one paper is immediately discredited in another, and the public naturally grows weary of the opinion that newspapers are usually inaccurate and too often dismise a perfectly correct statement as 'mere newspaper talk.'"

Mr. Harmsworth pays a high tribute to the press of the United States as being in one respect far in advance of the press of his own country. "The question," he says, "what to put before the public and in what manner to place it before them is one that calls for the keenest acumen and best judgment on the part of the newspaper director. Here, undoubtedly, the press of the United States is in advance of that of Great Britain. Such newspaper leaders as Pulitzer, Dana, Bennett, Hearst, Raymond, Jones, Childs, Medill, Lawson, Russell, Cummings, Taylor, Halstead, Patterson, DeYoung, Singler, Sokkin, Greeley, McKelway, Watterson and Wilbur Storey have but few counterparts with us. The instinct that tells what is news and how the public will best take it is not given to every writer. There is a great art in feeling the pulse of the people."

Trust of Great Papers Predicted. "Predicting that the journals of the twentieth century will be, he says, 'I feel certain that the newspapers of the twentieth century will be drawn into the vortex of combination and centralization. In fact, given the man, the capital, the organization and the occasion, there seems to be no reason why one or two newspapers may not presently dominate great sections of the United States or almost the whole of Great Britain. In other words, where there are now a multitude of papers good, bad and indifferent there will then be one or two great journals. The method by which such journals would be established would be precisely those employed in the formation of any other trust. Possessing its own cables, wires, dispatch boats and special trains, the simultaneous newspaper concern would have its own paper mills, printing ink factories, machinery shops and the like."

"The simultaneous newspaper would represent a standard of excellence which has never before been attained and with its vast resources, it would be able to carry out on an unprecedented scale enterprises outside of the strict newspaper fold."

"Mr. Pulitzer's wonderful stroke of four-

Feeds the Hair

Have you ever thought why your hair is falling out? It is because you are starving your hair. If this starvation continues, your hair will continue to fall. There is one good hair food. It is Ayer's Hair Vigor. It goes right to the roots of the hair and gives them just the food they need. The hair stops falling, becomes healthy, and grows thick and long. Ayer's Hair Vigor does another thing, also; it always restores color to faded or gray hair.

One dollar a bottle. If your druggist cannot supply you, send us \$1.00 and we will express a bottle to you, all charges prepaid. He will give you our latest and best formula. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Send for our handsome book on The Hair.

matistic genius in connection with the bond issue. Mr. Hearst's successful appeal to the people on the war issue between the United States and Spain and the work of British newspapers in connection with the South African campaign go to show what can be done in the direction of influencing public opinion even in the face of existing circumstances. Great would be the influence that would be exerted if the majority of the newspapers of the United States spoke with the same voice and enunciated the same policy.

"Such a state of things would be a terror to evil doers and to the supporters of anything inimical to the commonwealth." Mr. Harmsworth is strongly of the opinion that the newspaper should not be partisan in political sense, but should endeavor to represent the will of the people.

South Omaha News.

Charter talk is about the only thing of interest in municipal circles these days. One of the charters being prepared provides for the creation of six wards, with an equal representation in the council from each. The idea is to cut the First and Second wards into two parts, thus making the population of each ward about 4,000. In boards in some of the large precincts will be increased and the strain on the election boards in some of the large precincts will be relieved. The representation in the council will be decreased by two members. Councilmen are, according to this charter, to be elected for a term of three years, but the mayor is to serve for two years only. On Thursday night, after the council meeting, the charter matter will be taken up and some steps will be taken to arrange a meeting of the various committees. Of course each committee wants its own charter, but it is thought that concessions will have to be made by all interested in order that a suitable charter may be prepared. It is understood that those preparing the so-called citizens' charter want everything their own way and will not consider the other two charters to any extent.

In connection with this charter talk there is considerable speculation as to whether there will be an election in the spring. Some of the citizens appear to want an election for various reasons and it is certain that the democrats will do all they can to bring this condition of affairs about, as they hope to regain control of the municipality.

Housebreakers Busy. Housebreakers were decidedly in evidence Christmas eve and after midnight. Night workers entered the residence of James Bennett, Twenty-sixth and A streets, while the family was absent and carried off a portion of the silverware the house contained; also a brown overcoat and other clothing.

At the Mabery place, Twenty-fifth and C streets, a heat of tools was stolen along with some other articles. The tools were Sabotier's bowing alley on Twenty-fourth street was entered long towards morning and some cigars taken. Two slot machines in this place were broken open and the money extracted therefrom.

At a hotel on the corner of Twenty-fourth and B streets, a wagon was stolen in front of a grocery store on North Twenty-fourth street.

Prisoners Enjoy Themselves. The prisoners confined in the city jail appeared to enjoy themselves yesterday. At the instance of the mayor they were served with a much better meal than is usually handed out and the day was spent in singing songs and telling stories. All were granted the freedom of the corridors and hallways and were allowed to stroll about the day. The extra meal provided for the prisoners was thankfully received and the majority appeared to be as well contented as if they were at liberty.

Crashhotters Arrested. An early hour yesterday morning Officer Brugman entered the Four Aces saloon at Twenty-sixth and P streets and arrested a number of colored men who were engaged in shooting craps. The bank was closed and the dice were brought to headquarters, where they will be used in evidence against the prisoners.

Impounding the Mayor. Members of the city council who are conversant with the charter under which South Omaha is now working, say that there is no provision for impounding the mayor, therefore the hot-air story printed in an up-to-date paper is considered absolutely without foundation.

Magic City Gossip. John Kuhnke, for stealing an overcoat from Frank Mott. R. A. Carpenter and wife expect to leave for their home in Dulac, Mont., today. Colonel J. Sharp, secretary of the Stock Yards company, is expected here from the west.

Work on the new horse barn at the stock yards will be resumed today and pushed ahead as the weather is good. Judge King was in good humor yesterday and released a number of prisoners who had been charged in the police for petty offenses Monday night.

Mr. Arstein, proprietor of the Nebraska Clothing House, presented each member of the city council with a \$100 check yesterday.

Preparations are being made for the New Year's reception of the Young Men's Christian association. A meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. J. H. Smith on Thursday afternoon to arrange the details.

President Soldier Stabs Guard. WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—President James L. Donohue, a private soldier in the Washington National Guard, attacked a sergeant and four privates at the home of a friend in the city yesterday under arrest, and stabbed three of the party with a bayonet, which he had concealed under his coat. Two other soldiers were also victims of the infuriated man, one sustaining a painful wound and another being stabbed in the shoulder. Donohue then escaped and a piece of wood of Billy Blue are on the lookout for him. He is a foreigner by birth.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Dec. 25. New York—Arrived—Antilla, from Nassau, via Bermuda, from Rotterdam and Boulogne. Southampton—Sailed—Kensington, from Antwerp, for New York.

RISKY JOBS OF STEEPLE JACK

Perilous Undertakings of Steeple-Climbers for Moderate Compensation.

ODD ADVENTURES OF THE PROFESSION

Hairbreadth Escapes from Ferrying the Dark River—A Slide to What Seemed Certain Death.

The calling of the steeple-jack is unquestionably the most perilous of all odd professions directly connected with the routine activities of the business world. While the aeronaut's opportunities for meeting sudden and violent death are regarded as more certain than that of the man who climbs steeples and scales smokestacks and flagpoles, the balloonist's feats of daring are almost universally for purposes of display, while the steeple-jack does his dizzy tasks as a part of the world's serious work, and does not pose in any sense, as a performer. He is generally reluctant to confess that he has had narrow escapes from death, although the history of his daily work is an unbroken record of intraculous deliverance, at least from a serious and perhaps fatal accident. Pursuits do not all them to the heights where the steeple-jack is accustomed to tread.

Most of the fatalities which occur in this calling, relates the Saturday Evening Post, befall the men who attempt to get into the tanks without the aid of the necessary ladders necessary to insure them to working great heights. Scores of painters, sailors, telegraph linemen, tinner, roofers and "steel-structure" men resort to the vocation of the steeple-jack, attracted by the temptation of an opportunity to earn a comparatively high wage in a few hours of actual work. They are deluded by the impression that their previous experience in low-distance climbing is a sufficient preparation for more hazardous undertakings. Sometimes they pass the test of a serious experience, but more frequently many pay with their lives for their foolhardiness.

Lives Risked by Handling Tackle. In no other matter is the experienced steeple-jack so particular as concerning his tackle. The laws of the Medes and Persians were not more ironical than is the steeple-jack's rule that no person other than his own self is permitted to use, or even touch, his rigging. A touch of acid spilled from the soldering tin of a tinner is sufficient to weaken vitally a rope without leaving the slightest apparent evidence of the injury inflicted. The slightest disarrangement of a tackle is likely to cause a serious accident. In other words, the steeple-jack must know, wherever he returns to his work, that his apparatus has been absolutely untouched by any other hand.

Whatever may be the line in which a steeple-jack enjoys the greatest reputation it is certain that the most successful are frequently a jack of all trades. When putting a lightning conductor in place he may be called upon to solder or rivet a misplaced steeple ornament of tin or copper, replace the broken arm of a cross of wood with one of "skeleton" steel, or coat the surface of a sheet of copper with a delicate coating of gold leaf. Consequently he must have good command of the tools of the carpenter, the tinner, the pipefitter, the sheet-metal worker, the stonecutter and the mason.

The journeyman steeple-jack in the employ of a contractor in this field generally receives a wage of \$3 a day, "work or play," the year round. Employers of steeple-jacks generally insist upon training their own men, preferring to have their apprentices begin when little more than boys. Lads who are taken into the service in this manner are first put upon buildings of moderate height, and great care is taken not to force their progress too rapidly or to push them into hazardous situations. They are likely to become shocked or frightened. When thoroughly habituated to working with ease and fearlessness at a low elevation the apprentice is then promoted to a higher altitude.

One of the main things persistently impressed upon his mind is the necessity of never making an unconscious movement. He is taught to be wide awake to the nature and consequences of every step he takes, of each gesture of his arm or turning of his body. Scores of fatal accidents have, according to the steeple-jack, resulted from a failure to observe to the letter this vital rule. In almost every other line of work physical action is, to a large degree, automatic, but in this perilous pursuit the worker who allows himself to become so concentrated on his task that he is unconscious of his position is almost certain to meet with sudden accident and very likely with instant death. The lifting or laying down of a tool is a serious matter, not only to the steeple-jack himself, but to his fellow workers, or the unsuspecting passerby on the ground far beneath him.

Perilously Lassoing a Steeple. Perhaps the most difficult accomplishment which the young apprentice is called upon to acquire is that of "steepleslashing." This is a task, however, which he does not undertake until he has grown accustomed to the dizzyest elevations and is in complete command of his facilities when standing on the arm of a cross at a height of 200 feet as if walking on the solid pavement. No man who has not forgotten his fears in high places is prepared to make his first attempt in the hazardous feat of lassoing a steeple. His progress is slow and his movements free in order to accomplish this perilous passage of his art.

The lengths of the lasso to be used are determined by the varying dimensions of the steeple to be climbed. About the waist of the steeple-jack is around a coil of rope which is attached to a stout hook having what is termed a lock grip and a spring release. First the jack climbs to the topmost windows of the steeple, or to the highest point to which he can clamber, and then takes his longest lasso in hand and braces himself for the first throw. His rope is tipped with a ball of sufficient weight to give it the proper impetus and direction. Seizing the rope in his right hand, at a point three or four feet from the ball, he twirls it swiftly, then suddenly releases it with a jerk which causes the weight to swing around and encircle the steeple. Instantly he lets his left hand and catches the end of the lasso as it flies around and completes its circuit. The two ends are then fastened by means of a peculiar knot, after the rope is first drawn tightly around the steeple at a point as high as the steeple-jack can reach in the climber's belt. With the lasso thus fastened by means of the hook, the jack is able to encircle the spire with a second lasso at a distance of several feet above the first. Grasping the upper rope with one hand he unclips the second rope from the hook, catches the "dutch" or attaches to the toes of his shoes into the first rope, and raises himself until he is able to fasten his belt hook as the second rope, the first lasso serving as the first rung of the ladder, upon which he has a firm "toe grip."

Next he takes the second rope and secures it in the climber's belt. With the lasso thus fastened by means of the hook, the jack is able to encircle the spire with a second lasso at a distance of several feet above the first. Grasping the upper rope with one hand he unclips the second rope from the hook, catches the "dutch" or attaches to the toes of his shoes into the first rope, and raises himself until he is able to fasten his belt hook as the second rope, the first lasso serving as the first rung of the ladder, upon which he has a firm "toe grip."

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DREAMS RUDELY SHATTERED

Number of Omaha Citizens Come Out of Their Trance.

THOUGHT THEY OWNED IOWA REAL ESTATE

Had Taken Chances on the Peirce Mansion at Sioux City, Which Was Disposed of by Raftle.

A large number of Omaha dreamers were rudely awakened and made to realize the stern realities of life by the announcement in yesterday morning's paper that a jeweler of Vinton, Ia., had won the Peirce mansion at Sioux City, which was raffled off Monday night. The Peirce mansion, an undervalued, cost \$7,000 to build and stands on a lot worth about \$5,000. Some years ago it was decorated with a mortgage and in order to remove this mark on the house and realize some cash on his equity the owner decided to sell about 60,000 tickets at 25 cents and raffle off the property. The tickets were sold all over the country and a good-sized allotment found takers in Omaha, which harbors many men whose modesty would not deter them from taking possession of a \$50,000 property on a 25-cent ticket.

Frank Handle, who sold the tickets to the Omaha speculators, is something of a chance-taker himself and he yielded to the alluring temptations of the Goddess of Fortune by taking a bit of his own card-table luck possession of his upper vest-pocket Frank has been in a dream. In his mind there lurked a vision in which the Peirce mansion took on the aspect of a diamond-shaped structure, with the parlor representing the first base, the dining room the second base, the library the third base and the dining room the homeplate. On the front lawn pink carnations formed the words: "Home for Retired Ball Players." When Handle drew yesterday that the Vinton man had drawn the mansion he rubbed his eyes and sagely remarked that selling cigars was healthier for ex-ball players than lazy retirement after all.

Secretary Ut Dreams Dreams. Colonel John Ut of the Commercial club took a chance to win the Peirce mansion because he has always had strong fantasies of a position there, and after years of the strenuous life, such as he has led, the seclusion of a residence in Sioux City would not be unwelcome to him.

Rabbit Foot Goes Wrong. John Drexel invested a dollar, looked up the rabbit's foot that he carried in former years and began to figure on the former year's performance of the Douglas County Democrat up the river to the Iowa burg John remembered that Iowa went democratic once upon a time, but he forgot it again as soon as he read the result of the raffle.

Herman Peters, host at the Merchants' club, never overlooks an opportunity to make a fortune in a day and of course he was not happy until he possessed several tickets on the Peirce mansion. Herman entertained an idea that he could bring the house down by the raffle on a fat day and he finally landed in the middle of the air. The pedestrian stopped instantly, wheeled about and disappeared down Michigan avenue at a pace seldom equaled in the streets of a city.

Principals in this marvelous feat of steeple-jack work are thoroughly representative of it. They are Carl Bajohr and Joseph Conrad. After descending from the greatest height to which a statue has ever been hoisted on the American continent these men were in excellent condition of mind. Whenever this snuffed fire of their resting-place on a derrick brace sent it shooting through the air to the sidewalk. It struck the pavement half a dozen paces in front of a leisurely pedestrian bounding twenty feet in the air, and finally landed in the middle of the air. The pedestrian stopped instantly, wheeled about and disappeared down Michigan avenue at a pace seldom equaled in the streets of a city.

Side to What Seemed Sudden Death. "Suddenly, without a second's warning, I felt myself shooting upward. Instinctively I tried to dig my nails into the roof, but there was not the slightest object on which they could catch. Consequently they scratched a burning trail along the smooth surface of the glass shingles; and must have yelled the moment they saw my way—but of this I can judge only by the fact that my workmen at once knew what had happened. Although my descent to the edge of the roof was only a matter of a few seconds, I realized with terrible vividness what was happening at what the end of my awful slide would undoubtedly be."

"I felt my lower limbs pass over the eaves—and then there was a sudden, jolting pause. Both my hands had gripped into the gutter or eavegutter just as I was about to shoot into space. Had I been on my side or back, as I had done on the roof, this interruption would have been impossible. The desperateness with which I had clutched the roof no doubt served to break the rapidity of my descent and eventually enabled me to grip the gutter at the very moment when it was possible. There I hung, my whole weight resting on my fingers. Every second seemed an hour. The strain was terrible. To hang until I could summon help appeared hopeless—an impossibility! And I realized that to let go meant certain death. The gutter was only a few inches wide. I was hanging by a hair's breadth. I had not been hanging for more than a minute when I heard the voice of 'Billy,' my head man, shouting: "'Hang on! Stick to it! I'll get you in a minute. Keep your grip for just one minute longer; only a minute.'"

"If I had been on the strength his words put into my fingers I would have relaxed my hold, no doubt, and dropped to the stones below. But he just held me right to the scratch and I stuck and hung beyond anything that seemed possible at that moment. I was hanging by a hair's breadth to glance down, but simply hung there, staring at the wall of the church and gripping the gutter in an agony of desperation that made the cold sweat stand out all over me. What was Billy doing? When he saw that I had not let go, he came to my aid. He was the two thoughts uppermost in my mind as I centered all my energies on keeping my clutch on the eavegutter."

The Rescue. "At last, when the feeling began to creep over me that I could not hold out another minute I heard the swish of a rope slipping over the edge of the roof. This was the body of Billy sliding down the line. By taking hold of the eaves he pushed the rope up close to me. He had secured a firm leg grip himself and was a little lower down than I, so that his shoulders were on a level with my thighs. Then he ordered: "'Don't let go till I tell you to. Just stick and take a twist on the rope with your legs.'"

"Meanwhile he had carefully taken hold of me, so that if my strength gave way he could do as he had done. The other end of the rope was fastened to the roof. I felt a grip on my clothes. Cautionously I felt for the rope with my legs, found it, and took the twist that is second nature to all climbers."

"Now settle back on my shoulders," was his next command, as he forced his head carefully between my legs. As I did this I relaxed the fingers of my right hand from their hold on the gutter and took a feeble grip on the rope. Then I did the same thing with my left hand. And if it had not been for the fact that almost my entire weight was supported by the broad shoulder of Billy I should have dropped sheer to the ground, so it seems to me now."

"Slowly and carefully the man slid down the rope until his feet touched the ground. He was the first to be landed on the ground without ceremony."

Telephone Across the Gulf. KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 25.—An interesting experiment has just been made here. In the presence of several prominent persons the officers of a well known telephone company connected the wires here and at Havana with the only cable between the two cities. For a few minutes the communication was maintained, but the cable was broken by a Havana dispatch. The experiment was regarded as highly successful.

UNCROWNED QUEENS

In the original meaning of the word every woman was a queen, for the queen of the world was the wife of the king, because the queen—the woman, in America we give the word back its original meaning and every woman becomes a queen.

AN INVITATION TO WOMEN.

Sick women, especially those suffering from disease in chronic form, are invited to consult Doctor Pierce, by letter, free. All correspondence is held in sacred secrecy and womanly confidence is maintained by the same strict professional privacy observed by Dr. Pierce in his personal consultations with sick women at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., Address: Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

In a little over thirty years, Dr. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., assisted by his staff of nearly a hundred physicians, has treated and cured hundreds of thousands of weak and sick women.

Dr. Pierce's offer of free consultation by letter is not to be confused with misleading advertisements of "free medical advice" made by those who have neither the professional qualifications nor the legal right to practice medicine. Anyone can give advice on any subject. But the "medical advice" of a person who has no medical knowledge must be worthless and may be dangerous.

In consulting Dr. Pierce, women are addressing a physician whose skill as a specialist in the treatment and cure of diseases peculiar to their sex has given him a national reputation. There is no other offer of free medical advice which offers advantage equal to those offered by Dr. Pierce.

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Dr. Pierce's offer of free consultation by letter is not to be confused with misleading advertisements of "free medical advice" made by those who have neither the professional qualifications nor the legal right to practice medicine. Anyone can give advice on any subject. But the "medical advice" of a person who has no medical knowledge must be worthless and may be dangerous.

In consulting Dr. Pierce, women are addressing a physician whose skill as a specialist in the treatment and cure of diseases peculiar to their sex has given him a national reputation. There is no other offer of free medical advice which offers advantage equal to those offered by Dr. Pierce.

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