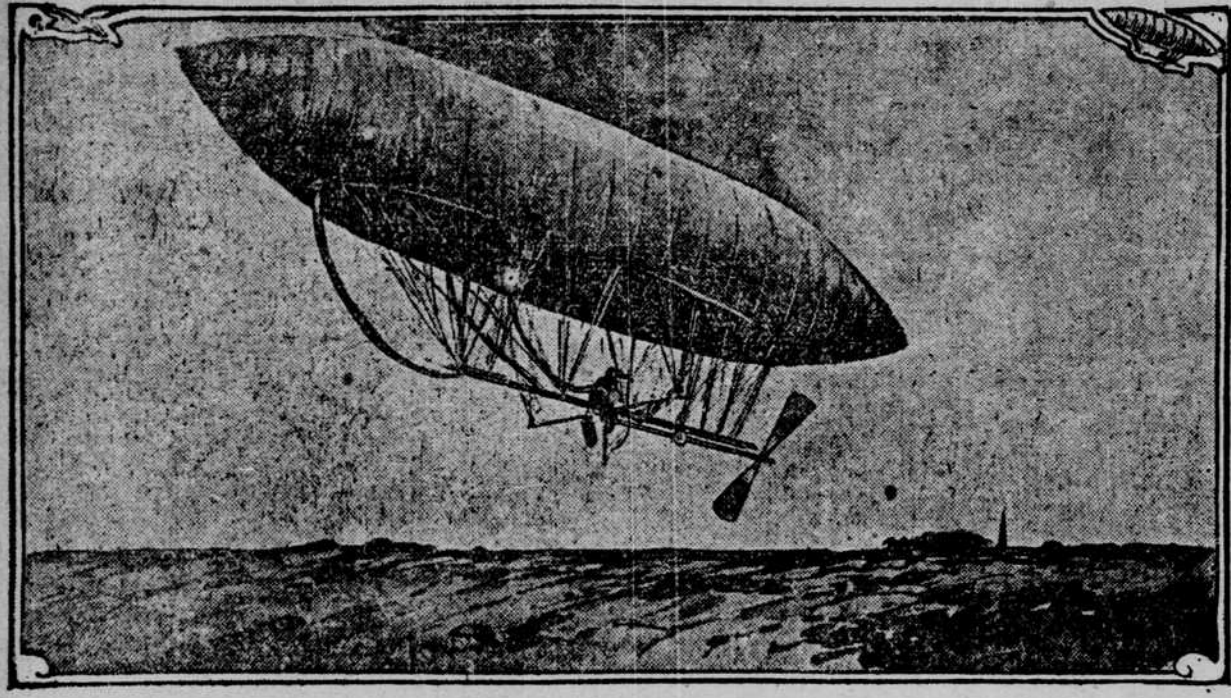


## Airship in Which Santos-Dumont Plans to Reach the North Pole



One of the most successful airships constructed by Santos-Dumont, who is to accompany Walter Wellman in his polar expedition, is pictured in the illustration. It will be seen that he has done away with the rope netting that usually surrounds the soaring silk, and that what ropes are necessary to attach the car are fastened into little sticks of wood, sewn into the thick sackcloth covering the belly

of the airship. To the other ends of the cordage is affixed a horizontal iron rod, which holds the car. The operator sits facing the propeller, a screw that resembles two triangles with the apex so curtailed as to change the figure into a trapezium. The aluminum screw whizzes round twice hundred times a minute. The motive power is petroleum, and the steering apparatus is under the operator's seat, where

the oil tank also is suspended. Altogether this invention weighs not more than 250 pounds. In a general sense Santos-Dumont has the suffrages of the aeronautic prophets. They say it will not only beat all rivals, but will yet be able to handicap them. His ship for the flight to the pole is expected to be a wonder of construction and the plans are rapidly being perfected. —Chicago Record Herald.

# BASEBALL

## American League Notes.

Third Baseman Barbeau, the Columbus recruit, has signed a Cleveland contract.

Jesse Tannehill will go south early this year to get some extra preps at Hot Springs.

Tis said that Lajoie has signed a new four-year contract with Cleveland, calling for \$30,000.

Pitcher George Mullin tells his Detroit friends that he will report lighter next spring than ever before.

Joe Yeager signed a New York contract last week, thus putting an end to the talk of his transfer to Buffalo.

Third Baseman Lee Tannehill has come to Chicago's terms and has signed. He says his leg is as well as ever.

Jake Stahl thinks that soccer will crowd football from the colleges. Jake was a pigskin player while a student at Illinois.

The St. Louis club will loan Ed Rodabaugh, drafted from Waco, to St. Paul or else send him back to Texas for further seasoning.

"Rube" Waddell claims that his pitching arm is rapidly getting back its old strength and cunning. Medical treatment and hand ball are doing the trick.

John I. Taylor is quoted as saying: "I am an American league man heart and soul, and Dan Johnson is my leader." Taylor will sail for Europe in a few days.

"Jiggs" Donohue, of Chicago, has the magnate bee buzzing in his bonnet. "Jiggs" wants to buy a franchise in the Central league. It's a cinch bet that Comiskey won't let him go.

The Washington club is making strenuous efforts to sign a Toledo High school third baseman named Fred Merkle, who has been touted to Manager Stahl as another Jack Knight.

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## GAMBLER GAVE BACK FORTUNE

There is a well authenticated story of Scrope Davis, a London dandy of a hundred years ago, an inveterate gambler, but also a man of talent, a gentleman and a wit. One night he was introduced to a young man named Hastings, who had inherited a colossal fortune, much of which he had already gambled away. They commenced to play hazard, Hastings remarking at the same time that he must soon cut out that sort of fun, as he was about to marry and settle down.

Scrope was in great luck. Main after main he won, and as often wished to cease play, but Hastings, who continued to pour glass after glass of champagne down his parched throat, was pallid with excitement, and insisted upon a chance to retrieve his fortune. The excitement became general. Other players left their own tables to crowd around the duellists. Time after time Hastings threw crabs, while Davis followed with the nick.

The rattle of the dice and the ceaseless flow of wines went on all night and far into the next day. Hastings was mad with excitement. Every pound and every security he possessed or could think of he pledged and lost. At last, like the gamester who staked

his wife upon a cast of the dice and lost, he would have risked the welfare of the girl to whom he was engaged if the other would have accepted that kind of security. But he would not. Then Hastings hurried dice and box across the saloon, smashing a splendid mirror, and, throwing himself exhausted upon a soft chair, burst into tears, exclaiming, "I can play no more. I have lost everything in the world. I am a beggar!"

Davis stood still, calm, unmoved, watching him. Then he said: "Mr. Hastings, listen to me. I will forego everything I have won to-night on one condition and that is, that you will take a solemn oath never to touch cards or dice again." The ruined gambler fell on his knees to thank his benefactor and to take the oath. The latter immediately restored everything he had won, and, oddly enough, Hastings kept his vow and lived a wealthy and prosperous man.

But the medal has a sordid reverse. When in after years Scrope Davis, reduced to great poverty, ventured to ask him for some slight assistance, the bound wrote him a curt, formal reply, in the third person, regretting that Mr. Hastings was unable to offer Mr. Scrope Davis any assistance.

## WEALTHY MEN OF TO-DAY

It is admitted that we are the richest people in the world to-day—the richest people the world has ever seen, says Cleveland Moffatt in Success. The vaunted wealth of Croesus is estimated at only \$8,000,000, but there are seventy American estates that average \$35,000,000 each. As showing the rapid growth of individual fortunes in this country there is interest in a list of rich men, printed in 1855, according to which New York city at that time boasted only twenty-eight millionaires. And a pamphlet published some years earlier says that in 1845 Philadelphia could show only ten estates valued at \$1,000,000 or more, the richest being that of Stephen Girard, which reached \$7,000,000. In contrast to which in 1892 there were over 200 millionaires in Philadelphia.

As to New York city, the number of its millionaires, according to best information, is over 2,000, while the number of millionaires in the United States is at least 5,000, or half the total number in the world. There is one family alone, at the head of which stands the richest and most powerful man in the world, John D. Rockefeller,

and the wealth of this family is estimated at \$1,000,000,000, a sum so huge that the human mind quite fails to grasp it, a sum so huge that if at the birth of Christ Rockefeller had been making a dollar a minute and had let all these dollars accumulate day and night for all these centuries, he would not yet, 1906, have amassed \$1,000,000,000. And if Rockefeller should to-day turn his wealth into gold coin and take it out of the country, say into Canada, he would carry across the border three times as much gold as would then remain in the United States. Nor would he carry it himself, for the weight of it would be 1,750 tons. And if he loaded it on the backs of porters, each man bearing his own weight in solid gold (say 150 pounds), it would require 23,000 men to move it. And if they walked ten feet apart the line of them would reach forty-four miles and would occupy fifteen hours in passing a given point. None of which takes any account of the daily interest on this fortune, which interest, if paid in gold, would require the strength of seven men to carry it, for it would weigh 1,000 pounds. Such are the riches of a single family.

## FOREST OF THE SPREE

"One of the most interesting regions in the 'Old Fatherland' is the so-called 'Spreewald,' the forest of the Spree, situated not far from the German capital, in the province of Brandenburg," says Fritz Morris in Technical World Magazine. "Each village is a little Venice, every house a little island; and these islets are connected by bridges sufficiently raised to allow boats to pass under them. Most of the houses with their barns and stables, rest on piles; and there is generally a strip of artificial terra firma, either in front or at the rear of every building. By means of these land strips and of the bridges, the slender land communication is kept throughout the district; but most of the business and amusement is carried on through the canals, which not only form the main highways but

penetrate and cross and recross the whole region. It is on these lagoons that all traffic is conducted in boats, during the period from spring, when the last vestiges of frost and ice are disappearing, until the end of autumn. You see the letter carrier shoot up and down the canals, performing his duties in his frail craft, the police glide leisurely along the banks, watching everything going on; peasants bring the products of their toil to the nearest towns; children go to and from school, young mothers, dressed in their Sunday clothes, are rowed to church, carrying in their arms a small, queerish looking bundle from which two large eyes in a tiny face stare at the stranger in wonderment —baby is going to be baptized, an important moment with this strongly religious town."

## TO PRESERVE THE DEAD

"Auto-preservation" is the name which Signor Vercelloni, an Italian doctor, has given to a discovery that preserves the human body without the use of ordinary methods of embalming.

"There is no necessity to touch the body at all, much less to dissect it," explains the doctor. "The old method, which is a very expensive one, is entirely done away with. No unctuous or wrappings are used.

"The body is simply placed in a zinc coffin, which is laid inside an ordinary wooden coffin, and between the two a patent powder mixture is sprinkled, which preserves every feature of the body, and especially of the face, exactly as it was at death. Viewed through a glass lid, there is nothing revolting in its appearance, the person appearing as though in

being simply in a peaceful sleep." Signor Vercelloni is of the opinion that the discovery will do away with the religious feeling against cremation, and may be valuable from the point of view of identification in criminal cases, and also in scientific research.

"In cases of family disputes," said the doctor, "think of the enormous advantage it would be to be able to gaze through the crystal lid and see the body fully preserved. There is a big case, involving millions of money, in the law courts now which my discovery would have decided without the dispute being dragged before the public. Then consider the historical advantage in having the remains of eminent personages exposed to the public veneration." — Manchester (Eng.) Chronicle.

## LAZINESS LEADS TO LUNACY

"Laziness is a great contributory cause of lunacy," says a British specialist in mental diseases. "The only way to preserve a healthy mind is to lead a busy life. But modern conditions, the compulsory retirement from professional occupations of men who have reached the age of, say, 55, condemn them to spend the rest of their existence in idleness. They become introspective and brood. They feel themselves 'side-tracked' from the main line of life, and almost unconsciously a state of rebellion is set up. From lack of mental exertion the brain loses the nutrition it has been accustomed to over a long period of years. Other conditions are set up which culminate in mental degeneration."

"Young men who inherit fortunes and devote their time to spending them fall ready victims to this undermining of the brain. Tragedies of the kind are constantly occurring. Many women and girls who belong to the leisured class are saved from a like fate by their devotion to dress and bridge. The zealous pursuit of those pastimes requires at least some measure of mental exercise. Perhaps that is the best that can be said of them.

"It is dangerous for a man who has led a busy life to abandon brain exertion. Medical science has prolonged the span of human existence, and yet retirement is now forced upon men at a much earlier age than hitherto. The only hope for these men is to cultivate some engrossing hobby."

## QUICK TRIP FOR NAILS

This story was told by Mr. Baker, of chocolate fame: Some years ago, in Milton, he had a man in his employ called by the name of Tim Reardon, who was considered a handy man with tools. As Mr. Baker was walking through his yard one day he noticed that one of the shingles on the gable end of one of his buildings had blown away. Seeing Tim, he recalled him, and asked him if he could replace the shingles.

"Of course I can," said Tim. And he immediately erected a temporary staging to work on, some thirty feet high.

He got his hatchet and shingles and went upon the staging. He had been up but a short time, however, when he tripped and fell to the ground,

which, luckily, was soft, and he had no bones broken, but was stunned. While he was lying there, some one informed Mr. Baker of the accident, and he went immediately to see Tim, who had just opened his eyes. He asked Tim if he was hurt, and how he came to fall. Tim answered: "I don't know, Mr. Baker; I tripped on something up there. But," he added, "it doesn't make much difference; sure I had to come down for some nails anyhow."

Whereupon Mr. Baker, trying to keep a straight face, remarked: "Well, Tim, I like to see a man do a thing quickly, but the next time you want calls I prefer that you come down on the ladder, even if it takes a little more time." — Boston Herald.

## HOW SHOELACE SHOULD BE FASTENED

Next to the collar button, no article of male attire has been the innocent cause of more plain, everyday cuss words than the harmless shoelace. It would therefore appear that any method which would insure its being under control at all times would fill a long-felt want.

Such a method of fastening which requires no knots of any kind is herewith described. Referring to Fig. 1, the first operation is shown. The lace is threaded through one of the bottom holes as for a single lacing, but the tag is allowed to lie at right angles to the width of the shoe between the tongue and the upper. It is preferable to have the tag on that side of the shoe which is stitched to the tongue, as that tends to hold it firmly in place. The other end of the lace is then threaded through from front to back, diagonally across to the next hole on the opposite side, then out and in through the corresponding hole on the opposite side, and so on till the lace is passed through the last hole. This will leave the end on the inside of the shoe. This terminates the permanent part of the operation.

After the shoe is put on the end marked A, Fig. 2, is laid back out of the way, as shown in the illustration.

Making War Horses Invisible. A special military commission is now sitting in Berlin considering the best means of making cavalry as invisible as possible in warfare.

Harmonizing the men's uniforms with natural conditions as much as possible is not enough, and the commission is now discussing the advisability of dyeing the horses or screening them with light canvas trappings.

At the War office yesterday it was said that several experiments had been made in this direction during the war in South Africa.

One official said: "Many horses were dyed, but it was found that the dye soon washed off all except gray horses. Several vegetable dyes, and Condyl's fluid diluted were used, but the experiments proved of little value. Canvas trappings made the horses more imperceptible and impeded their movements, and besides when the sun is behind the cavalry, the horses' legs can be seen through the canvas.

The cross loops from the bottom up are then tightened until the top loop C is reached. Holding the part marked B tightly in one's hand, it is passed round the eyelets as shown, missing each alternate one on opposite sides. Enough slack can be secured to enable the operation being easily accomplished by pulling the part marked A. After the top is reached the loop



is looped over the opposite eyelet and over all the ones missed in the first process. When finished with loop C, as shown in Fig. 3, pulling the end A tightens this last loop, and the lacing appears as illustrated in Fig. 4. The end is now tucked down between the shoe and the foot, as shown in Fig. 5, and the operation is completed. No inconvenience at all will be experi-

enced by tucking the lace inside the shoe.

To unfasten simply pull upon the part D, Fig. 4, which formed the loop C in Fig. 3, when enough slack can be secured from the loose end to enable the lace to be unlooped from around the eyelets. The surprising ease and quickness with which a shoe can be fastened and unfastened will



convince any one that this is the only way a shoe should be laced. It is in reality a very simple operation, and once learned becomes automatic. There being no knots, there are no loose ends to look untidy or work loose. A shoe can be fastened or unfastened in the dark without any possibility of a tangle, and when laced will stay so without loosening up.

## Standing Treat in Australia.

Early Australian gold-diggers made many contributions to the slang of that commonwealth. One of these was "shouting," or standing drinks for everybody within hail, a practice of which the lucky digger was very fond. To refuse to drink with a digger who had "struck it rich" or turned up a big nugget was a deadly insult. A critic quotes from J. F. Hogan's "His story of the Irish in Australia": "Shouting was at one time almost universal. To shout in a public-house means to insist on everybody present friends and strangers alike, drinking at the shouter's expense. It frequently happens that each one 'shouts' in succession."

## No Room for Argument.

"There are times when even the friendship of a dog is not to be despised," remarked the thoughtful thinker.

"That's no base canon," replied the young man with the curly hair. "I'd give anything if I could make friends with the canine owner of the father of the one and only girl."

## Declines Honor of Knighthood.

When J. Hennifer Heaton, M. P., declined to accept the honor of knighthood the other day on the retirement of the Balfour Cabinet, he declined for the third time. The title was offered him in recognition of his services in carrying the imperial penny postage scheme in 1898 and introducing telegraphic money orders in the United Kingdom and the parcel post in France.

## Writer Thinks Change Would Make School Work Easier.

"Thursday, not Saturday, is the day the school children should have off," said a member of the Board of Education. "Then the week of work would be broken up twice, instead of only once, as now. In France last year I noticed all the children going to school on Saturday.

"Why, how is this?" I asked. "I thought Saturday was a school holiday all the world over."

"No," they said. "Sunday is a holiday with us, and Thursday is. Sunday and Thursday—they are the children's two days off. They are the best days, for they break the week twice."

"We have Saturday and Sunday off in America," said I.

"Why, how foolish," said the Frenchman. "Two holidays right together, and then an unbroken stretch of hard work for five days. School is hard work, you know. The average school child works harder than the average man."

"I came home convinced that we ought to make Saturday a school day and Thursday a day off. I have been urging this change for a year now. But the people balk at it. It is like urging a change of religion." — New York Press.

## Mid-Week Holiday Preferred.

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