

BEST TRICK NOT IN THE AIR

Aviator Was Clever at His Work, but Shown Best in Another Line of Endeavor.

Henry M. Neely, the aviator poet of Philadelphia, said at a recent banquet at the Bellevue-Stratford: "Yes, it is true that it takes a lot of money to become an aviator. You can't get an aeroplane and you can't learn to fly without plenty of cash."

Mr. Neely smiled. "I was watching a brother aviator making a volplane the other day when I heard a young lady say: 'He can do a lot of tricks, can't he?'"

"Yes, you bet he can," her companion agreed. "What is his best trick?" she continued.

"His best trick far and away," was the reply, "is buying a biplane on credit. He's done it twice now, and I shouldn't be surprised to see him pull it off a third time before he breaks his neck."

A Little Off.

Senator Penrose was talking in Washington about the dreadful hunting accidents of last month. "When buck fever strikes a man," he said, "he goes as far off his aim as the old lady went in her definition of the word 'bellows.'" She was talking with a friend about a bishop.

"He's a fine man," said the friend, a fine, handsome man. His only trouble is that he's a little bellows." "Bellows?" said the old lady with a surprised frown. "He must have changed, then. The last time I saw him he was tall and rather slender."

Never Fail.

"My wife can't decide on a car." "This model is the last word in touring cars." "The last word, eh? Then she'll have it."

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Knees Became Stiff

Five Years of Severe Rheumatism

The case of Henry J. Goldstein, 14 Boston Street, Boston, Mass., is another victory for Hood's Sarsaparil. This great medicine has succeeded in many cases where others have utterly failed. Mr. Goldstein says: "I suffered from rheumatism for five years, it kept me from business and caused excruciating pain. My knees would become as stiff as steel. I tried many medicines without relief, then took Hood's Sarsaparil, soon felt much better, and now consider myself entirely cured. I recommend Hood's."

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The FIGHT AGAINST the OPIUM EVIL

THE past few months have witnessed political changes in China that are fraught with grave import for the people of the most populous country on the globe. At the same time there has been working to a culmination another evolution in public affairs that holds almost as much significance for the inhabitants of the Orient as does the upheaval of the machinery of government. This late development is a crusade to free the Chinese, and incidentally, other peoples of the world, from the bondage of the opium habit which has for so many years been a drag upon their intellectual and material progress.

We, as Americans, must feel an especial pride and interest in this breaking of the grip of the deadliest drug habit because it has been brought about largely through the efforts of the United States. Or, in other words, Uncle Sam set the ball rolling. At

first the movement simply had as its object the banishment of opium from China, but gradually the scope of the anti-opium "missionary work" expanded until it embraced the whole world—every section of the globe where the use of opium has become a habit—and finally within the past few months the fight against the evil has been expanded in scope until it embraces prohibitive or restrictive action not only against opium, but also against morphine, cocaine, and, in short, all habit-forming drugs.

The fight against the opium evil, with Uncle Sam as the chief aggressor, has been going on steadily for some years past but it is only now on the eve of complete success that it has come to attract attention from all classes of the community. From the time when Chinese began to settle in the United States, bringing with them, many of them, their love of opium smoking it was realized that the evil was one of the menace of which would sooner or later be brought home to our people—particularly those residing on the Pacific slope and in the western section of the country where the bulk of the Mongolians settled.

However, it was only after Uncle Sam came into possession of the Philippines, following the Spanish-American war, that our public men and government officials were thoroughly aroused to the necessity of grappling with the problem. In the Philippines our people found great numbers of Chinese who were confirmed opium smokers, and, worse yet, they were rapidly teaching the destructive habit to the natives of the islands. There was much agitation of the subject both in the Philippines and here in the United States and the upshot of the matter was that the congress of the United States passed laws prohibiting the importation of opium into the Philippines except for medicinal purposes. From that moment there was a marked improvement of conditions.

The example of Uncle Sam's action and the complete success which attended it, awakened China to her own need and gave hope of a solution. The progressive men of China were deeply moved by the spectacle of another nation (and one that had always been traditionally friendly to China) combating at the very doors of the Orient with an evil that was realized by all thinking men to be sapping the life blood of a large share of Asia's population. The result was a strong anti-opium movement in China and out of this grew a direct appeal to then President Roosevelt from representatives of missionary societies in the Far East and from commercial organizations and institutions in the United States. It was the plea of these various interests that the United States government, considering its historical attitude in regard to the opium traffic in the Orient, should take the initiative in assisting China to secure the prohibition of that traffic.

This was in the year 1904, but it was a couple of years later that definite plans were made for an international concert of action in the matter. In that year Bishop Charles H. Brent of the Philippines, who was, naturally, in a position to appreciate the havoc wrought by opium, wrote to President Roosevelt appealing to him "to promote some movement that would gather in its embrace representatives from all the countries where the traffic in and the use of opium is a matter of moment." Thereupon President Roosevelt sent his secretary of state, Mr. Elihu Root, open up correspondence with all the powers

having possessions in the Far East to ascertain if it would not be possible to form a distinguished international commission that would study the opium problem as it then appeared in the quarter of the globe where it had proven the greatest menace, and would, further, report the wisest measures for bettering the situation.

It required a year and a half of letter writing, back and forth, before the governments concerned could be induced to meet each other on a common basis. In explanation of this reluctance it may be pointed out that a number of the countries, notably Great Britain, and her colonies, France, Holland and Siam, derive large revenues from the opium traffic, and in some instances opium production is a government monopoly. Should the traffic in opium be virtually abolished, as it is likely to be in time, these various powers stand to lose revenue to the enormous aggregate of one hundred million dollars a year. No wonder they hesitated. However, in the end the common cause of humanity triumphed and it was arranged that an international opium commission should be created.

This commission, which took up its work at the city of Shanghai, China, early in the year 1909, discussed all phases of the moral, economic, scientific and political aspects of the opium problem, not only as existing in the Far East but throughout the world. The outcome of the gathering was the unanimous adoption of a series of recommendations in which the delegates and experts assembled, strongly urged that their respective countries take action in three matters, namely an overhauling by each nation of its own regulations with reference to the opium traffic; the adoption of measures for the suppression of opium smoking, and, finally, the enforcement of restrictions upon the manufacture and sale of morphine.

The experts of the different nations having agreed upon the measures that ought to be taken to curb the evil, it was up to the United States, she having inaugurated the project, to make the next move in the matter. This she did with no loss of time. Our officials wrote to the various powers suggesting that they get together and take action on the recommendations that had come from Shang-

hai. In other words, it was suggested that as a sequel to the earlier effort there should now be international co-operation for the placing of the production and traffic in opium under international law.

The culmination of the long fight is now in sight. An international conference was held recently at The Hague, the capital of the Netherlands, to arrange for measures that will put up the bars against opium and other habit-forming drugs all over the world. Many of the men who attended the Shanghai conference were appointed by their respective governments to represent them at The Hague. The power and significance of the two gatherings was vastly different, however. At the Shanghai conference those in attendance could only advise and recommend. At The Hague conference the delegates were empowered by their respective governments to agree upon definite measures. After prolonged sessions, measures were decided upon which, it is expected, will fully carry out and put into effect the objects of the conference. These measures will be reported to the various governments represented, to be followed by legislative action on the part of their law-making bodies putting into execution the regulations agreed upon. This is supposedly a mere matter of routine, as all the powers have given their promise.

Foremost of the regulations agreed upon are those for uniform national laws and regulations to control the production, manufacture and distribution of opium and its derivatives. Almost as important will be the regulation by the universal postal union of the transmission of opium through the mails. Going yet further in the direction of complete control will be the restrictions that are to be placed upon the cultivation of the poppy, from which opium is derived, and limiting the number of ports through which the drug may be shipped by opium-producing countries. There was adopted also uniform marks of identification for packages containing opium in international transit.

The nations that are interested in this world-wide crusade and were represented at the conference, include the United States, China, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Russia and Siam. Some of the other powers, notably Austria-Hungary, were not directly represented because they are not much affected by the opium evil, but they have given assurance that they will abide by the regulations which have been agreed upon by the conference. When the international conference was first proposed, China showed her intense interest by appointing a strong delegation including such progressive men as Dr. Yen, who was educated in American colleges and is in sympathy with American ideas and ideals.



WHERE ANTI-OPIUM CONFERENCE WAS HELD



WHERE OPIUM TRAFFIC IS TREATED AT MANUFACTURE



DR. YEN

MEMBER OF THE SHANGHAI CONFERENCE



TYPE OF VESSELS USED IN THE OPIUM TRAFFIC

where the anti-opium conference was held

where opium traffic is treated at manufacture

Dr. Yen

Member of the Shanghai Conference

type of vessels used in the opium traffic

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type of vessels used in the opium traffic

CALIFORNIA TREASURE STORY

The story of a wound received in the Civil war which sealed the hiding place of a fortune for more than half a century and of a strange trick of fate which cleared the hider's memory in the evening of life was brought to Los Angeles by the hider's son, J. K. Anderson of New Orleans, who is at the Van Nuys en route to the old placer mining fields of California, says the Los Angeles Herald.

Anderson's father joined in the gold rush and was one of the miners of the '49 days. He located a claim in Placer county, near Auburn and Newcastle. Within a year he had snatched from the river bottoms a fortune. Then the call of the south for volunteers reached him. He buried the gold beneath the adobe blocks of a tavern in the vicinity of his claim, strapped all the precious substance he could carry about his body and hurried to join the Confederate army.

Anderson says that his father was struck in an engagement with the Union troops by a bullet which tore open his scalp and robbed him of his memory for fifty years. During that time, the son says, the father was like a child with all knowledge of the hiding place of the gold gone. Before he died, a year ago, his memory of the gold rush returned to him and he was living again in the past that preceded his part in the conflict.

It was during these last moments that the old man told his son and the mother where he had buried what he claimed was a fortune. The son is hurrying to unearth it possible the buried treasure. Anderson said: "My father said he buried the gold under a corner of an old adobe tavern patronized by the miners in the early days. This tavern was in Long valley at a point halfway, I have learned, between the present towns of Newcastle and Auburn. I have learned through corre-

spondence that a family by the name of Scott occupies the tavern as a farmhouse and that the country around it is devoted to the raising of citrus fruits. "No one has disturbed the original lines of the building. The adobe blocks are heavy. I have obtained permission from the owners to prosecute my search and will give them a

share of my findings. Otherwise I would have to buy the property."

Anderson is a civil engineer. He was engaged by the government for some time in work on the Panama canal, but has left his employment to search for the treasure which he maintains his father has hidden in the old placer mining fields of California.

Unintentional Truth. "The latest agony," said a spendthrift to his dissipated companion, "is the way I felt this morning. My wife asked me for a \$10 note and I cut the matter short by telling her that it could not be done, for the simple reason that I had only a matter of 5 bob or so in my pocket. "I knew you'd tell me that," she said, "and it's true too. And as I looked up in amazement she added, 'I looked in your pockets last night. I've got the \$10 note.' "Fancy how I felt! But what could I do?"—London Tit-Bits.

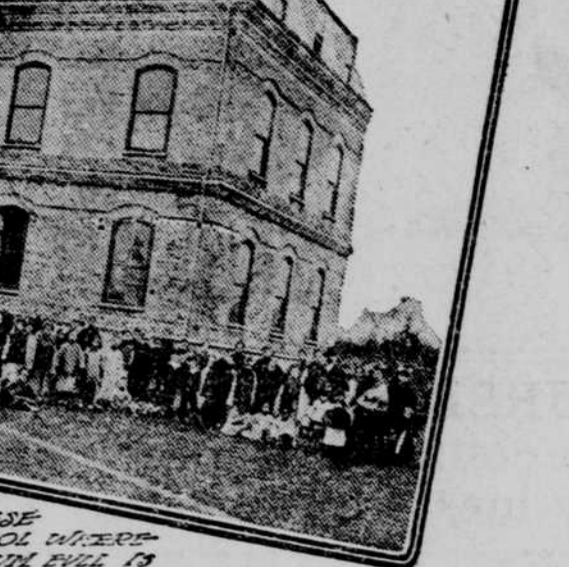
Plausible. "Brags is up in Maine hunting. He writes me that he's shot the biggest bear on record." "Don't doubt it. It would have to be a monster for Brags to hit it."—Boston Transcript.

Few business men could stand the test of a demand for instant settlement of all obligations, and yet we often demand the exhibition of a character which only a lifetime will form.

When a woman is away for the summer she expects her husband to sit on the piazza at home and howl like a dog every night because he is lonesome.

Cranks and Wings. "I'll have to get new wings," said the flying man. "These are all scrawled up with the signatures of cranks. Look here. It's dangerous." The fabrics of the monoplane's wings were indeed lined and criss-crossed with George Smiths, John Browns, Maudie Greens, and so forth.

"Wherever an airman alights," he said, "a lot of fools rush up, get out their pencils and scrawl their silly names all over the wings. Sometimes a pencil point punctures the tense, thin fabric—always the fabric is strained by the pencil's pressure. Nevertheless, the wretched habit keeps up, and every now and then, just on account of the scores of signatures on



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DOOM LATTICE MAST

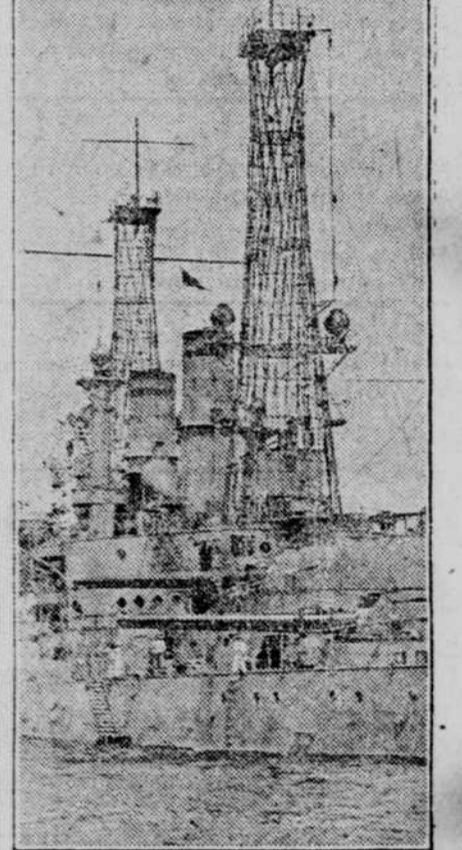
Navy Men Say They Must Be Abandoned.

Practically indestructible, but Vibration Proves Handicap to Range Finders and Diminishes Accuracy in Gunnery.

Washington.—The skeleton masts on the United States battleships, distinctly a feature of American war craft, are said to be doomed for the scrap heap. There is a great deal of discussion in naval circles over the apparently well-founded report that the navy department intends to abandon the skeleton masts with which all battleships are now equipped because they have not come up to expectations, and from the viewpoint of naval experts are a hindrance and a handicap to efficient marksmanship. The vibration of the mast, due to its slender mechanism, is said to be the chief defect. For this reason the range finder, whose duty it is to pick up the object and communicate the distance to the gun pointers, is unable to do so with the celerity and accuracy that would be demanded in a naval engagement.

When the skeleton mast was introduced on American battleships it was agreed generally a great step had been taken in advance of other nations. It was the belief then, and still is, that the mast is indestructible, which gave the ship in time of action a big advantage, for if the mast could not be shot away the fire control system of the vessel at no time would be threatened.

The position of the range finder is at the top of the mast. He is the pulse of the ship, and mistakes made



Masts of the South Carolina.

by him may mean the destruction of the vessel. Naval experts figured a 12-inch shell would pass through the skeleton mast without destroying it, whereas one shot in the old style hollow steel mast would bring it down and with it the whole fire control system. It was calculated several shots could go through the skeleton masts and it still would stand. But from all indications those who advanced the skeleton mast theory evidently were carried away by their enthusiasm and overlooked the drawback in another direction that would be caused by the vibration of a battleship steaming at full speed.

How much depends upon the range finder can be understood only by men who make a study of fighting at long range, as was pointed out by an expert who says the skeleton masts are a failure. It was expected that when the lattice work masts first made their appearance other nations would be quick to adopt them. It was a surprise to advocates of the new type of mast that this was not done. The skeleton mast is typically an American naval idea, but from all indications the defects now seen by experts here were foreseen by experts in other navies, and the American mast let alone.

Those in favor of the skeleton masts point to the excellent gunnery records made in target practice since their adoption as proof of their success, but the counter argument is advanced that if the range finders were placed on more substantial posts the marksmanship of the navy, increasing in excellence as it has done year by year, would be still better and all records for speed and accuracy would be smashed. The unpopularity of the skeleton masts has been growing steadily. It is said the change is not far off, and any day may see orders issued doing away with what a year or two ago was thought to be great stride forward in naval construction.

Dies of a Broken Heart. Hempstead, L. I.—Extreme grief over the tragic fate of her little girl caused Mrs. Kate Blewski to die of a broken heart. Last week the little one was fatally burned at a bonfire in front of her home here and as she was carried into the house the mother collapsed. She remained in a semi-conscious condition until her death. The attending physician says that her death was due solely to a broken heart.

Dog Dies Near Master. Smyrna, Del.—A shepherd dog, owned by Joseph Staats of Smyrna, stricken with grief over the death of his master, wandered away from home and died in a hole he dug into the earth of the newly made grave. How the dog located the graveyard or the proper grave is a mystery that will never be solved. Mr. Staats had been a partial paralytic for several years.

His Wife's Misfortune

Poor Jones was in a dilemma. It was Mrs. Jones' birthday, and her spouse was well aware that she would be extremely displeased if no present was forthcoming. It was not until the morning when he awoke that he remembered it, so he lay for some time thinking of the best way out of the difficulty. Then he arose, crept downstairs, took the biggest plate he could find

from the china-cupboard, and placed it on the hall table. This done, he opened the back door and let the dog in from the yard. Then, tripping lightly upstairs, he called to Mrs. J.:—

"This being your birthday, I have prepared a little surprise for you; be quick and come and see how you like it." Then he ran downstairs again and,

kicking out the dog, cried in amazement and wrath, "If that vile beast hasn't eaten the whole of the beautiful cake I had bought for you!"

But he'd forgotten to unmuze the brute, and the fact took a lot of explaining away.

Cranks and Wings.