

## A DETROIT BULLDOZER.

HE TELLS A REMARKABLE STORY OF HIS LIFE.

CAME TO DETROIT ABOUT FORTY YEARS AGO.

Levi Eisey's Experience Worthy Serious Attention.

From the Detroit Evening News.

Away out Gratiot Avenue, far from the din and turmoil of the city center, there are many attractive homes. The intersecting streets are wide, clean and shaded by large leaf-covered trees, and the people you meet are typical of industry, contentment and honest toil. There are many pretty residences, but none more inviting in its neatness and home-like comfort than that of Mr. Levi Eisey, the well-known builder and contractor, at 74 Gratiot street just off Gratiot. Mr. Eisey is an old resident of Detroit, having moved here about forty years ago. He has erected hundreds of houses in different parts of the city, and points with pride to such buildings as Newberry & McCullum and Campau blocks, in which he displayed his ability as a superintendent. "I have seen Detroit grow from a village to a city," he observed yesterday in conversation with the writer. "I don't think there are many towns in America to-day equal to it in point of beauty. I know almost everybody in the city, and an incident which recently happened in my life has interested all my friends."

"It is now about eight years ago since I was stricken down with my first case of illness. One cold, blistering day I was down town and through my natural carelessness at that time I permitted myself to get chilled right through. When I came home that evening I felt a serious pain in my left leg. I bathed it that night, but by morning I found it had grown worse. It was so serious that I sent for my family physician, in which he informed me that I was suffering from varicose veins. My leg swelled up to double its natural size and the pain increased in volume. The agony was simply awful. I was laid up for eight weeks. At times I felt as though I would grow frantic with pain. My leg was bandaged and was propped up in the bed at an angle of 30 degrees in order to draw the blood from flowing to my extremities."

"I had several doctors attending me, but I believe my own judgment helped me better than theirs. After a seizure of two months I could move around, still I was on the sick list and had to rest eight weeks. At times I felt as though I would grow frantic with pain. My leg was bandaged and was propped up in the bed at an angle of 30 degrees in order to draw the blood from flowing to my extremities."

"I was in a wide hall. Before me a dark staircase, whitened with dust, led to rooms above. To the left and right were closed doors, and attached to the white casement of the latter was a little bracket candelabra containing a cluster of six half-consumed wax candles. Lighting two of these, I took one in the palm of my hand and opening the door at my right entered. The room in which I found myself was apparently the parlor of the deserted mansion. The dust-covered hallways built by the architect had evidently been for many years unoccupied, and was of a style massive and once much in vogue. A number of paintings and engravings were upon the walls in tarnished gilt frames. A large chandelier suspended in the center of the room was of elaborate workmanship. The floor was covered with a heavy matting the exact nature of which I could hardly determine, owing to the darkness of the evening. Passing on to an adjoining room, I was not disappointed in finding it to be a large bedroom with all the appointments peculiar to an old-time Southern home. The room was furnished with a tall bedstead in the opposite corner and draped back the curtains; it was ready for the guests for which it had so long waited. The bedding was yellow with age, and the pillows had been soiled from the dust. It had not been occupied for years."

"I confess I was possessed with a sense of awe amid these surroundings, and in a timid nature I determined to pass the night beneath this roof in preference to enduring the heavy fog that always gathers at night in these mountains. Leaving my candle lit, I now returned to my bedroom and arranged his bed-clothes so that he could get the grass for a considerable space about him; then re-considering the saddle I returned with it to my strange quarters. "Trying to get the cracking windows and its heavy shutters to let fresh air into the musty apartment, I fastened back the draperies of the tall bedstead and drew back the long unused bedstead and the bed-clothes were of a cerise color. To relieve this some what I covered the pillow with my coat, and removing my outer garments I lay down, for I was greatly fatigued and in an exercise to which I was totally unaccustomed."

"My candle I had, with a few drops of melted wax, affixed to a small table in the corner of the room, and having no desire to remain in darkness in this lonely place, I left it burning. "As I lay there wondering at my strange surroundings and not altogether free from a sense of awe at the silence and shadows of the deserted place, I now noticed for the first time that beyond my candle and a little to the left there hung against the partition wall a portrait of a lady. The picture was an oil painting and the execution admirable. It was full life size, and the frame that inclosed it was of a rich and elegant material, but it was faded and dusty. "But it was the figure itself that most attracted me. The face was that of a woman not beyond 20 years of age, but her hair was of the extreme. Her hair was a wealth of glistening gold; her dress that of a bride. The picture appeared to have suffered but little from age, and the light as it fell upon it made the view from my position remarkably good. As I lay there in silent contemplation of this beautiful portrait, I forgot my aching feet and my body, and fell to speculating upon the history of this deserted house, and the story of that fair bride. "I was too tired to muse long; my eyelids grew heavier and I caught myself nodding over my body without being able to distinguish them. Then I fell asleep."

"I do not know what time it was when I woke, but it must have been very late, for the candle had burned low and was flaming wildly as from a draught. At that moment a fear came upon me such as I had never known. An icy sense of creeping over my body, beginning at my feet and extending rapidly upwards. I was trembling as with an ague. "A slight rustling sound from the next room attracted me, and turning my eyes involuntarily in that direction, I almost expired from fear, for into the chamber, her head bowed, and wringing her hands in evident distress of mind, there entered the lady of the portrait. The counterpart was exact; the dress, the pattern of the lace, even the rings upon her slender white fingers. That it was a spirit I never for a moment doubted."

Affraid of the Women.

Captain Joe Waters says in a letter declining to engage in a debate with the Populist Women's club of Topeka: "No power on earth is strong enough to compel me to dispute with a woman. If any of them desire to fight me, I at once display a flag of truce and unconditionally surrender. As a lawyer I carry this further. Under no stress, no compulsion, no apparently magnificent opportunity for me to air my art, will I ever cross examine a woman who is a witness against me, and in this I think I have a wisdom beyond Mr. Butterworth."—Chicago Herald.

## PORTRAIT OF A LADY.

In the summer of '88 I was employed to look after some legal business at Boone Court House, W. Va. Leaving the railroad at Brownstown and taking directions and a horse from my landlord at that point, I set out through the mountains early in the afternoon, expecting to reach Raefle in time for supper.

As the afternoon waned, however, I noticed that the road became constantly rougher and apparently more unfrequented, until it was little more than a deserted pathway that crossed and recrossed the gravelly bed of a dry creek, in a mad effort to remain in the narrow valley that wound circuitously among the mountains, whose black timbered summits seemed to stretch high and higher above me in the gathering twilight. It being a cloudy day I was completely mystified as to the points of the compass, and it now became evident to me that I had in some manner gotten lost. I had all ready gone so far to retreat my steps before nightfall, so that unless I speedily found shelter I would be obliged to pass the night in the open air.

Being in no wise pleased with this prospect, I continued to press on a little farther before abandoning the quest and had barely formed this resolution when a bend in the pathway brought me into full view of what appeared to be a large, square Southern mansion surrounded by trees and situated a little way up the slope of a remarkably lofty mountain that rose precipitously behind it.

"My approach revealed an outward appearance of overgrowth and dilapidation. The fence had fallen down in several places; the open gate was barely supported by its rusty hinges; the yard was a mass of weeds. The entrance to the house I could not determine in the dim light made dimmer by the heavy shadows of the trees. Between the tall weeds and briars there was a wide stone walk leading from the gate to the front door. The prospect was not an inviting one, but as my situation had become somewhat desperate I determined if possible to obtain accommodations for the night."

"My repeated knocks elicited no response beyond a hollow echo, and concluding the place to be deserted, I tried the door. Somewhat to my surprise it yielded, the rusty hinges creaking terribly as I pushed it wide open. As I entered I was greeted by that musty, lifeless odor common to places long closed and uninhabited. I had matches with me, and striking one I looked about me."

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Electric Alarm Cash Drawer. A new and ingenious application of the electric alarm system has been made for increasing the safety of cash drawers. In the electric cash drawer the fullest provision seems to have been made against any system of tampering by outsiders, and the part of the outside that may be peeped within him. With an ordinary cash drawer, instead of the usual mechanical bell alarm, an electrical alarm device is used, consisting of a dry battery, a bell, an electric lock, and the combination of five contact keys, connected in multiple with the circuit. The keys set are externally indistinguishable from those not set. If the proper keys are touched the circuit is broken, and no noise, if, however, any but the right keys are depressed, the bell will ring, and the drawer will lock if any one tries to open it. The drawer will also lock itself if it is accidentally left half open, and the alarm bell will ring until it is closed. In addition to the local alarm, connection can be made with a bell in any part of the building, or even at the nearest police station, so that instant warning can be given either by night or by day of the manipulation of the cash drawer by any unqualified person.

Paper Telegraph Poles. One of the latest uses to which paper has been turned is the making of telegraph poles. The paper pulp employed is saturated with a mixture of borax talrow, and other substances. The mass is cast in a mold, with a cone in the center, forming a hollow rod, of any desired length; the cross pieces being held by wooden keys driven in on either side of the pole. The paper poles are said to be lighter and stronger than those of wood, and to be unaffected by the many conditions of weather which shorten the life of a wooden pole. It is doubtful, however, whether the paper poles will come to be anything like a rival to the iron pole, which is so high in the market. The value of iron telegraph poles has been well tested under the most trying conditions on the line between Europe and India, and again across arid stretches of country in Australia. Insects that eat out of the core of everything in the shape of wood, leaving the shell only, and birds that drill holes in the toughest of trees, let the iron pole pass and even wandering tribes can not chop it up for fire wood, although down in Australia they have not yet quite gotten over the trick of making arrow heads of the insulators that it carries.

Killing Rats by Electricity. A Philadelphia electrician has "gone one better" on Edison's familiar cockroach-killing device. The proprietor of a downtown restaurant in the Quaker City was constantly pestered by a host of rats, which swarmed at all hours into his yard, in search of the wholesome, but temporary, refuge. The favorite route of the rodents was ascertained, and a hole was made in the wall, which terminated in a hole alongside a grating covered. The electrician one day caught sight of the troublesome creatures, and he proceeded to try an interesting experiment. Laying coils of copper wire about the hole, he made an attachment to the electric light wires within the building, and fixed in a convenient place a key for turning on the current. When everything was in readiness, a watch was kept on the hole, and as soon as a dozen rats were playing about the inclosure, the key was turned. As the rats returned one by one to the hole, they were unmistakably electrocuted. The plan worked to a charm, and the story goes that in this way nearly 100 rats were killed off in a little over a week.

Storage Battery Railway in Australia. The cloud which has so long hung over the storage battery in traction work is being steadily dissipated, and the establishment of the commercial feasibility of the accumulator for railway traffic in this country and Europe is now supplemented by the account of a new storage battery road in Australia. The motors used are of the American type, and are practically noiseless, the gear being protected by closed boxes, coated with asbestos. Lamps are fitted in the smoking and non-smoking compartments, and electric headlights are used. The power brake is exceptionally effective. It is worked by electricity. It distributes the brake pressure over all the eight wheels equally, and can be graduated with the greatest nicety. The driver controls and reverses the car with his left hand, and with the right the electric brake with his right. In the experimental trip a speed of thirty miles an hour was easily attained, and the running of the car gave great satisfaction.

Telegraphing by Induction. Only recently the public has learned much, through the experiments of W. H. Preece, of what can be done in the way of telegraphing to distant points by induction coils; that is, by dispensing with intermediate wires. This principle of electric induction has now been applied by J. Winshurst to solve the problem of establishing telegraphic communication between a lightsip and the shore. The difficulty of maintaining a cable between the shores and a swinging and tossing lightsip is well known, and Mr. Winshurst makes no attempt to secure his communication by this means. Instead, he employs two coils near each other on the swivel pin of the moorings, one coil connected by wire to the shore, the other to the instrument on board, and the signals pass between them by induction, leaving the moorings to twist about as they may.

## SCIENTIFIC MATTERS.

NEW IMPROVEMENTS IN THE USEFUL ARTS.

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