

UP ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Congressman Hitt Said to Be Best Informed Man in Country. Congressman Robert R. Hitt of Mount Morris, Illinois, is believed to be the best informed man in the country regarding the government's foreign relations.

BISMARCK AND THE KAISER.

Story Has It That Last Words Exchanged Were in Country. T. P. O'Connor's London weekly, M. A. P., learns "from an old diplomat that the last words of the late Emperor and the late Prince Bismarck were spoken in English.

RECLAMATION OF DESERT.

Good Work Goes on with Certainty of Ultimate Success. The desert is commonly considered a forbidding place, and numerous difficulties are encountered in the endeavor to make it blossom as the rose.

WARS COST 14,000,000 LIVES.

Prof. Charles Richet Recounts Marital Tragedy of Nineteenth Century. Prof. Charles Richet, the noted French apostle of peace, is quoted as saying that during the nineteenth century 14,000,000 human beings died in consequence of war.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP.

Estimates Show a Reduction in All Most All Countries. Estimates of the wheat crop put the total yield of this country at 533,000,000 bushels. This would indicate a reduction from the yield of last year of about 100,000,000 bushels.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION

Radio-Activity Not Unique. That there is anything mysterious or revolutionary in the recent discoveries concerning radium is denied by Prof. Robert A. Millikan of the University of Chicago.

HOUSE COSTING \$80

Two-story Structure, Comfortable and Neat. Residence of Settler in New Country. That leaves nothing to be desired—Plans Showing How the Two Floors Are Laid Out.

DEATH AND JOLLITY

Jack's Fatal Oversight. "I like you just enough, Mr. Uxmal," said the perplexed young woman; "or, at least, I'm not sure I like you as well as I do Jack Cawdry.

DEAN OF CONSULS IN CHINA.



The dean of the foreign consuls at Shanghai is John Goodnow, the American consul general. In the whole of China he is the man of greatest consular power.

RECALLS ASTOR PLACE RIOTS.

First Battle in Which Gen. Daniel E. Sickles Was Engaged. One of the most interesting figures in New York is that of Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, the venerable one-legged hero of Gettysburg and Chancellorville.

DESTRUCTIVE WORK OF THE STORM AT MINNEAPOLIS.



St. Paul City and High Bridge, which Was Wrecked.

Keep Books Clean.

Who has not seen the book abuser with the dirty habit of moistening the fingers and applying them to page after page of a book to turn the leaves more easily? It is done so often that it has become a habit with some and possibly they are not aware of the act, but someone else, turning the pages afterward, is sure to find the finger marks left on the white surface.

Prevents Soiling the Pages.

Little thumb attachment which will make it easy to turn the pages without soiling. It consists of a spring clamp for attachment to the thumb near the end, while from one side of the clamp projects a thin flat plate which is designed to be inserted between the leaves of the book.

Wrong Remedy.

"Is it true," asked the caller, "that your husband ordered Dr. Smoother out of the house?" "Yes, poor Jack had been carrying the baby all night and every night for a week, and was run down to a thread. I called the doctor, and he told Jack that he must take exercise."—Detroit Free Press.

Famous Austrian Beauty Coming.

Miss Ducl Von Kuranda, the noted Austro-Hungarian beauty, whose loveliness has been extolled by many travelers, will visit this country next winter. She is but 18 years old, and already is famed all over Europe.

Will Visit Son's Grave.

Lord and Lady Roberts are to go to south Africa this fall, one of the primary objects of their journey being to visit the grave of their only son, who was killed in Natal during the Boer war and buried on the battle field.

QUAY GAVE UP STAKES.

"Joe" Cannon's Singing Voice Too Much For Pennsylvania Senator. The late Senator Quay circulated a story wherein Speaker Cannon is represented as a singer. The occasion was a political banquet where a discussion arose over the song, "The Old Oaken Bucket."

Arak Is 120 Years Old.

Perhaps the oldest man in the world is Sid Ahmed Salim, a wonderful relic of the eighteenth century, who has long been one of the sights overburdened with citizens, are they? "I am sorry to say that the twentieth century bids fair to rival the nineteenth century in the killing line."

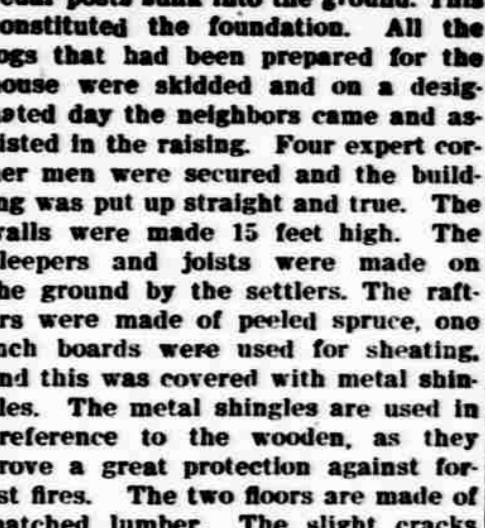
Baron Rothschild Changes Politics.

Nathan Meyer Rothschild, first reports indicate that there is a short crop in many countries. Canada has been hit like the United States, the estimates in Manitoba being reduced by one-half. We learn also from a general review in the London Economist that the English crop will be much below the average, and that of the entire United Kingdom a meager one.

Is the Sea Pushing Back Boston?

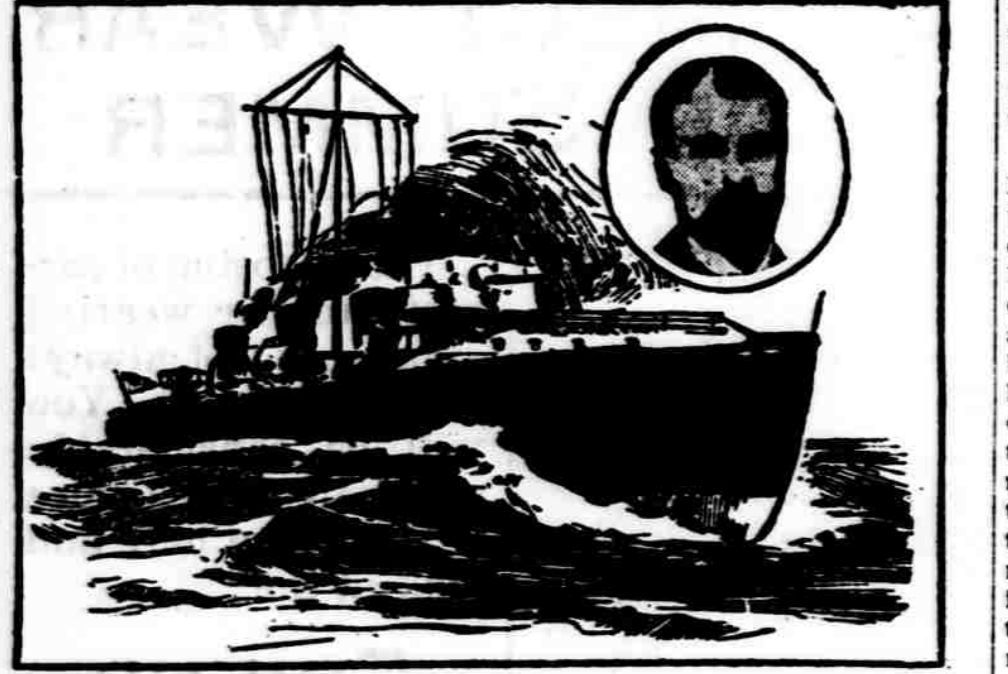
J. R. Freeman, of the Metropolitan Water Board of Massachusetts, is the authority for the statement that Boston is sinking into the sea. He asserts that the present datum plane, to which all elevations are referred by the engineering department of the city of Boston, and which is commonly known as Boston base, probably coincided almost exactly in the year 1832 with the mean low water at the Charlestown navy yard.

Upper Floor Plan.



Safe for a While.

"It's funny," said the sick man's wife, "but the doctor says he hasn't discovered yet what's the matter with you." "Thank heaven!" exclaimed the sick man, "then I'm safe for a while yet."



United States Torpedo Boat Destroyer 'Chauncey'. American warship which figures in dispatches from Shanghai, China, and United States naval officer in command there.

Life's Most Important Act.

A magazine editor, seeking an increase of circulation, sent to each of his 3,500 subscribers this query: "What was the most important act of your life?" Fifty dollars for the best true answer. He received more than 1,000 replies, all but one relating some particular deed of which the writer was proud.

Authority on Penology.

Major R. W. McClaughey, warden of the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth, has just celebrated a thirtieth anniversary of his management of prisons. He was first appointed warden of a penitentiary in August, 1874.

Capital to Have Shepherd Status.

U. S. J. Dunbar, a Washington sculptor, has the contract for a heroic statue of Alexander B. Shepley, who rescued Washington from the mud and to whose energy and determination the present beauty of the city is credited.

Important Diplomatic Positions.

It is said that persistent pressure is being brought to bear with the view of inducing President Roosevelt to "shake up" two of the foreign posts on this nation—those at St. Petersburg and Constantinople. It is held that this country needs its ablest diplomat at the court of the czar, and Mr. Adee of the State Department is believed to be the man for the post.

Law on Sandy Soil.

Wm. R. Wood, who please say through the columns of your valuable paper, what kind of grass or clover you would recommend to make a lawn on what is considered 'good building sand.' I have plenty of water for irrigation.

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Speaks Perfect English.

Indeed, the wife of the family is said to be strictly American in character. David Davis of Illinois was nominated for President by what was called the labor reform party, which held its convention in Columbus, O.

Japan's Low Death Rate.

Clarence Ludlow Brownell, in his recently published book on Japan, says that the death rate for children is lower in Japan than it is in Europe and America. This is as it should be, for the ground where the houses are off the ground a foot or two and have no cellars and the air inside is as fresh as it is out; where, too, in such places as at least Tokyo, every one bathes and has a good scrubbing every day.

First Chinese-American to Vote.

The first Chinese-American citizen to vote in New York city exercised his franchise there this fall. His name is Chew Ngua Wing, born in San Francisco thirty years ago, and he is taking advantage of the constitutional provision which guarantees the franchise to all American-born males over 21 years of age.

German Emperor a Linguist.

The German emperor speaks several languages fluently and he is displeased because so little attention is paid to modern languages in German high schools. He thinks that Russian and even Chinese and Japanese should be taught in the upper classes.

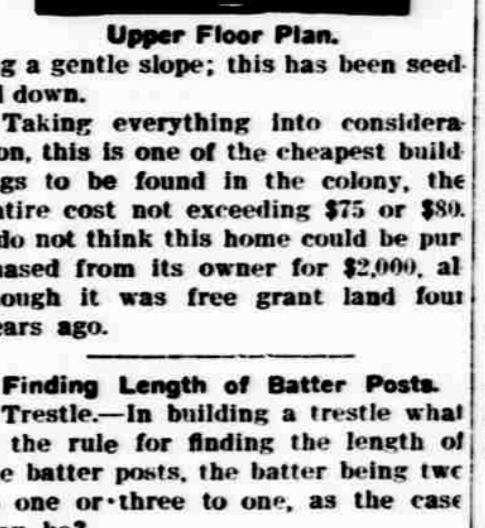
Speed Contests Abandoned.

Promoters of automobile speed contests on tracks are beginning to abandon this form of the sport because of recent accidents where the flyers have jumped the track, injuring many people. They have sought to get the manufacturers to guarantee them against loss by damage suits for possible accidents, but, being unsuccessful, are abandoning the contests.

Concrete Cellar.

What would be the approximate cost of building a concrete wall for a cellar 23 by 23 feet and 6 feet high? What would be the best thickness for the wall? In what proportion should gravel and cement be mixed for the concrete?

Upper Floor Plan.



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Oldest West Point Graduate.

Gen. Herman Haupt, now in his eighty-eighth year, is the oldest living graduate of West Point, having been appointed at the age of 13 by Andrew Jackson. He had entire charge of all the military railroads of the federal government in the civil war, and in twelve hours was promoted by Stanton from plain Mr. Haupt to Brigadier General Haupt, beating all records.

Hard Work Brought Success.

Sarasate, the great violinist, was once asked the secret of his success. "It was the only practice a day since I was 12," was the reply, which means that he has fiddled for 100,000 hours since his early boyhood. However, this constant practice has resulted in not only fame, but fortune, for he makes something like \$10,000 a year.

Joked to the End.

Wilson Barrett, the English actor, who died recently as the result of a surgical operation for intestinal trouble, was quite a joker. Just before he was to be chloroformed he said to the doctors: "Here's a fine state of things. I was to open my season in a few weeks and here you fellows are about to open me." Thirty-six hours later he was a dead man, heart failure through fatty degeneration having carried him off.

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Pictures Not a Necessity.

Mollie Elliot Seawell, the authoress, must pay duty on several pictures which she brought back with her from her last trip to Europe. Miss Seawell claimed free entry for the pictures on the ground that they were articles necessary for her well-being and comfort on the journey, but the board of general appraisers decided that they were not included in this category.

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Sea Captain Fifty-one Years.

Capt. J. H. Jones, master of a three-masted schooner on the Atlantic coast, has been a sea captain 51 years, which is believed to be the record among coasting commanders. He was born in Middletown, Conn., nearly seventy-seven years ago and has been at sea since he was 16 in his teens. He was captain of one vessel for twenty-four years.

Missionary of Noble Birth.

Rev. Bonaventura Piscope, a missionary among Italians in the Pittsburg district, is a nobleman by birth, the son of Margus Galeasi Piscope of Naples. He became a priest of the Franciscan order in 1882 at the age of 22 and has been engaged in mission work almost ever since, part of the time with Italian troops in Africa, during the disastrous Abyssinian campaign.

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