

Part of New York's Great New \$162,000,000 Pure Water System

NEW YORK, May 18.—Condemnation proceedings have been begun by the city authorities to acquire land for the big Kensico reservoir which is to be constructed in Westchester county in connection with New York's gigantic new water system.

Few persons appreciate the immensity of this system which, when completed, is to deliver each day 300,000,000 gallons of pure water from the heart of the Catskills, 100 miles away, into the homes and hydrants of the greater city. The reservoir in Westchester county is only a link in the \$162,000,000 chain, but it is a very important one.

There, in the very heart of the county, a lake is to be constructed more than four

miles in length and averaging about half a mile in width. It will be the storage reservoir for the immense volume of water that is poured down from the Catskill mountains. It will hold 6,000,000,000 gallons, which is 8,000,000,000 more than the capacity of the great Croton reservoir.

To build this big lake one entire town and part of another will have to be wiped out, while many farmers will have to give up their homes. But for the inconvenience which Westchester folk suffer they will be compensated many fold by having a lake of great scenic beauty.

Some idea of the immensity of this storage reservoir is afforded in the fact that it will be thirty miles around its shore line. That is a good deal farther than a man would want to drive for pleasure on a Sunday afternoon. It will contain an island more than a mile in length and three beautiful peninsulas ranging from half a mile to one mile in length will jut out into its crystal body.

This lake will be located in the townships of Mount Pleasant, Harrison and North Castle. It will begin at Valhalla, where the present Kensico reservoir dam is located, and will extend north through valleys formed by an arm of the Bronx and the Beargutter rivers.

The above panoramic view shows the present reservoir and dam and the hills on either side. The water in the new reservoir will come up just about even with the hill top that is seen over the Valhalla side. The new dam, which will be 3,000 feet long at the top, will extend across the valley along the line of the roadway visible in the picture just below the present dam. About twenty buildings in the lower part of Valhalla, including a hotel, three or four small stores, the New York water supply station and several houses, will be wiped out. That remains of the lower part of the village will lie right under the shadow of the great dam.

Some of the residences up on the hillside overlooking the present lake also will be swept out of existence, and the members of one of the town churches, when the new reservoir is completed, will be able to stand on the front doorsteps and throw pebbles into the water, to say nothing of fishing.

The construction of the reservoir will include the building of a dike on the west side of the present lake about 1,000 feet long and twenty feet high. There is a depression there, and the water would spill over the dike if something of the sort wasn't done.

The new dam will rise the flow line of the lake 110 feet. The flow line of the present reservoir, which is a little over a mile in length and about one-quarter of a mile in width, is 245 feet. This means that part of Valhalla will have behind it a wall of water about 350 feet high.

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The problem of how New York people shall get drinking water has been a thorn in Kensico's side for a good many years. When land was acquired for the present reservoir back in the early '80s, Kensico had to move itself back a few hundred feet from the lake. There was some grumbling then, but the city paid for it. And now comes the announcement that the place is to be pushed off the map altogether. But the city will pay for that also.

It is the expectation of the engineers who are working on the job that J. Fletcher's grocery store, as shown in the above picture, or the spot where it stands near the four corners, will be covered by about 300 feet of water ten years from now. And the place where the Methodist church stands now will be just about as deep in the lake as the grocery store location.

"What is it," said one of Kensico's Methodists, "that the Bible tells us about building our house on a sure foundation, so that when the winds and the rain come they won't wash it away? I guess back in those times they didn't have any New York water system to deal with."

The Methodist church has been existing on its present site for several years by the grace of the water board. It is within 30 feet of the present reservoir, which is the shore line distance kept free of all buildings by the city. An exception was made in the case of the church, but now it will have to give up the congregation decides to set it up on a raft.

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built himself a beautiful home, will be completely inundated.

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SOME OF THE HOUSES TO BE TORN DOWN



METHODIST CHURCH AT KENSICO

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GENERAL VIEW OF THE PRESENT KENSICO RESERVOIR, SHOWING THE BEGINNING OF THE VALLEY TO BE FILLED.

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One of the good things which Westchester county folks think they can see in the dim future is a big driveway around this lake, a distance of twenty-five or thirty miles. This driveway would connect at Valhalla with the Bronx Parkway, which is proposed in a bill now before the legislature. This parkway, according to the present plans, will extend from the Bronx park up the valley of the Bronx river and will connect at its southern end with the

speedway. The Board of Supervisors of Westchester has already voted to pay 25 per cent of the cost of the parkway. If all these plans are carried out it will be possible in future years for a man to start out on Riverside drive at Seventy-second street and continue on a drive over the best of roads up to and around the picturesque new reservoir and back, a distance of more than seventy miles.

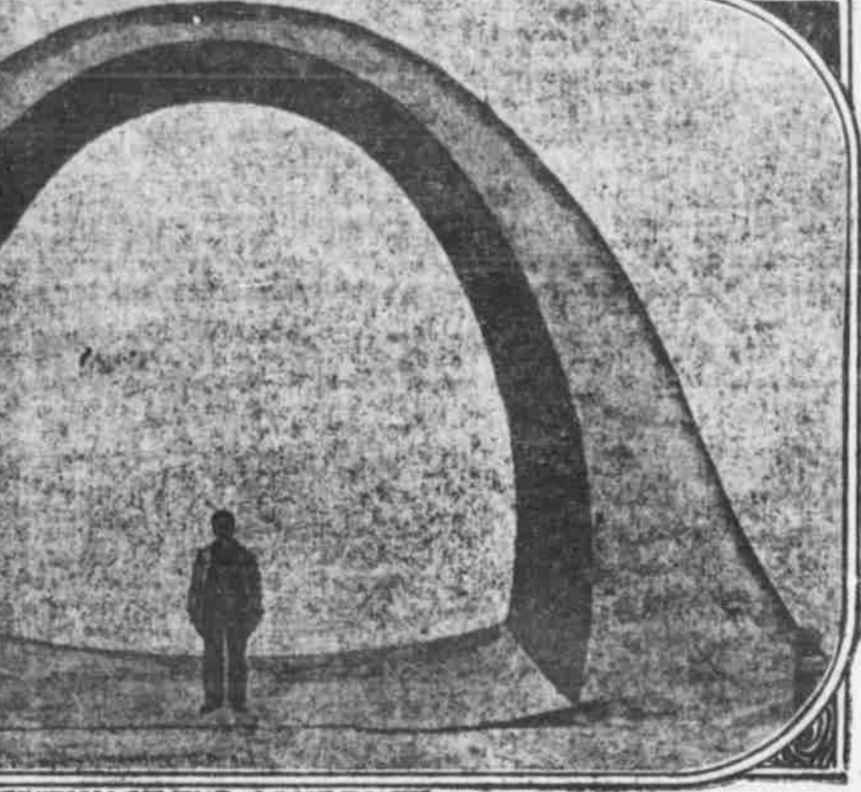
The new Kensico reservoir will be fed by an aqueduct seventeen and a half feet in height and almost as wide, which will extend sixty miles from the great collecting reservoir at Esopus. This aqueduct is larger than the single bore subway tunnel under the City Hall park. A man could almost drive a team of horses and a furniture van through it. The above picture shows a cross-section of the aqueduct. It will be made mostly of cement and will be covered all the way down from Esopus.

under the river to the east bank, where it will rise again through a perpendicular shaft and continue on its way toward the Westchester reservoir.

The great reservoir at Esopus, which will be formed by the damming of Esopus creek, will be ten or twelve miles long and half a mile wide. There also will be several other reservoirs west of the Hudson, collecting water from fourteen watersheds. Condemnation proceedings have been begun in the case of the Esopus reservoir, and it is expected that it will be finished before the big storage lake in Westchester is completed.

The aqueduct which will feed the Kensico reservoir will follow the west bank of the Hudson down to Storm King. Wherever it is possible the huge cement main will be laid in the side of the river bank. At Storm King the aqueduct will cross the Hudson.

A shaft will be sunk on the west bank of the river, between 600 and 1,000 feet deep, until solid rock is struck. Down this precipice the flood from the Catskills will plunge, then through a horizontal tunnel



SECTION OF THE AQUEDUCT

Before it gets to the storage reservoir it will take another plunge down into the bowels of the earth when it comes to the new Croton reservoir. The engineers will go down in this place until they strike rock, just the same as in the crossing of the Hudson. Thus billions of gallons of water will go racing under other billions of gallons, all of which eventually will go to quench New York's thirst and keep it clean and safe.

The present system now supplies the city with between 400,000,000 and 500,000,000 gallons a day. The addition of the Catskill system will more than double the supply.

The water will leave the new Kensico reservoir through an aqueduct as large as the one which brought it down from the Catskills. It will be carried, according to the present plans, to some point between White Plains and Yonkers, probably in the vicinity of Scarsdale, where it will be put through a huge filter. New York's present water supply is not filtered at all.

This Westchester county filter will consist of a bed of sand covering sixty acres, with a fine gravel bottom. This entire expanse of sand, if the plans of the water board are carried out, will be roofed over. The bed of sand will be two or three feet deep and the layer of gravel about one foot thick. The water will trickle through this and then be collected underneath.

From the filter it will continue on its course to the new distributing reservoir that is to be built at Yonkers. This reservoir will have a capacity of from 500,000,000 to 800,000,000 gallons. The place selected for it is just south of the Empire race track.

The city will have to have 150 acres there. This reservoir will be known as the Hill View reservoir. It is the highest site that could be selected.

From the distributing reservoir the water will go in mains to different parts of the city. One trunk line will plunge down under Hell Gate and cross to the borough of Queens, meander down through Brooklyn and then cross under the Narrows to Staten Island.

The Yonkers reservoir will have to be constructed, as there is no natural basin. It will cost more than \$5,000,000.

The estimate of \$162,000,000 for the entire system is \$12,000,000 more than the estimate that was made for the Panama canal. By many experts it is considered a much more difficult and daring engineering feat. The work is in charge of J. Waldo Smith, who has under him a staff of 400 or 500 engineers. Merritt Haviland Smith is the department engineer in charge of the construction of the new Kensico reservoir, and the other work in Westchester county, including the filtration plant and the Yonkers reservoir.

The engineers will not attempt to say with any definiteness how long it will take to complete the system. It took the city thirteen years to build the great Croton dam, and it is hoped to have the work at Kensico finished within ten years. It is expected that the aqueduct will be laid and the Esopus reservoir finished by that time.

The new system will bring water to New York 170 feet above the level of the existing system, which means that the water will be forced up eight or nine stories by gravity.

Richard C. Keeler, who lives in the Rye pond section, has as good cause to grumble as anybody. His family got a grant of land from the king of England in 1683. This grant included all the land under which the new reservoir is to be built.

When the city acquired the pond a few years ago Mr. Keeler had to move back 300 feet from the water's edge. Four years ago the city pushed him back half a mile, and now he's got to go away back. He is 75. He has the original grant given to his ancestors, and he will show it to you and tell you he thinks it is a fine thing that he can't even fish in the pond now without getting a permit from Commissioner O'Brien.

What the cost of the new storage reservoir will be hasn't been determined with any great definiteness yet. It is estimated that the big dam at Valhalla and the dike on the west side of the lake will cost about \$7,000,000. It will cost the city at least \$50,000,000 more to rebuild the highways that will be destroyed and construct new bridges.

There are two roads which will be put

up in the section where the big Croton reservoir was built raised a howl when the city started to condemn their land, and so did the people who lived in the present Kensico reservoir district. For the most part, however, the property owners of Westchester county are taking a broad view of the proposition and are prepared to move out as soon as the city pays them what their property is worth.

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Gossip and Stories About People of Note

Mark Twain and the Bicycle.

IT SEEMS a good while ago," relates Mark Twain in the North American Review. "I must have been rather young for my age, for I was trying to tame an old-fashioned bicycle nine feet high. It is to me almost unbelievable, at my present stage of life, that there have really been people willing to trust themselves upon a dizzy and unstable altitude like that, and that I was one of them. Twichell and I took lessons every day. He succeeded and became a master of the art of riding that wild vehicle, but I had no gift in that direction and was never able to stay on nine long enough to get any satisfactory view of the planet. Every time I tried to steal a look at a pretty girl, or any other kind of scenery, that single moment of inattention gave the bicycle the chance it had been waiting for, and I went over the front of it and struck on the ground on my head or back before I had time to realize that something was happening. I didn't always go over the front way; I had other ways, and practiced them all, but no matter which way was chosen for me there was always one monotonous result—the bicycle skinned my leg and leaped up into the air and came down on top of me. Sometimes its wires were so sprung by this violent performance that it had the collapsed look of an umbrella that had a misunderstanding with a cyclone. After each day's practice I arrived at home with my skin hanging in ribbons, from my knees down. I plastered the ribbons on where they belonged and bound them there with handkerchiefs steeped in lotions, and was ready for more adventures next day. It was always a surprise to me that I had so much skin, and that it held out so well. There was always plenty, and I soon came to understand that the supply was going to remain sufficient for all my needs. I turned out that I had nine skins, in layers, one on top of the other like the

leaves of a book, and some of the doctors said it was quite remarkable.

I was full of enthusiasm over this insane amusement. My teacher was a young German from the bicycle factory, a gentle, kindly, patient creature, with a pathetically grave face. He never smiled; he never made a remark; he always gathered me tenderly up when I plunged off, and helped me on again without a word. When he had been teaching me twice a day for three weeks I introduced a new gymnastic—one that he had never seen before—and so at last a compliment was wrung from him, a thing which I had been racking my life for days to achieve. He gathered me up and said mournfully: "Mr. Clemens, you can fall off a bicycle in more different ways than any person I ever saw before."

Money Maker and Spender.

Rufus Brown Bullock, ex-governor of Georgia, who died near Albany, N. Y., a few days ago, was a big and easy money maker. But he spent his income as fast as he earned it. He was careful, however, to carry a large life insurance. His motto was to make good money and live well, protecting his family through insurance.

Mr. Bullock in his youth was a telegraph operator, and was among the first to receive rapidly the Morse code in dots and dashes. When he was an operator in Philadelphia the telegraph business of the country was done by numerous small companies. It was at his suggestion that these small concerns were united in one large company and this was the basis for the Western Union.

Roosevelt's First Speech.

President Roosevelt made his first set speech when he was 10 years old, reports the Washington Herald. At that time he would a bold sailor be. He had read all the marvelous tales of the sea, and his ambition was to sail the ocean blue in command of a stanch craft that would carry him to the uttermost parts of the

earth. He was permitted by his governors to spend much time about the wharves of New York, and he thus became personally acquainted with many of the most famous skippers of that time. Chief among his heroes was a certain Captain Doane, commander of the clipper ship Rival. This old sea dog used to fill the mind of the future hero of San Juan with astonishing stories of storms at sea and hairbreadth escapes from a sepulcher in Davy Jones' locker.

He fired the imagination of the youth and stirred his ambition. In 1858 the boy, who is now president, raised a fund by popular subscription for the purchase of a library for the officers and crew of the Rival, all of whom were his friends. At the head of a delegation of youngsters he visited the ship when it next came into port and with due ceremony presented the library, consisting of forty-five volumes, to the skipper. The presentation speech was made by Mr. Roosevelt. When reminded, a few days ago, of this event by an old friend, the president said he remembered it perfectly, and that frequently he had wondered if any of the officers or crew of the Rival were still alive, and if so, if they remembered his speech. "I thought it was a mighty fine speech," said he, "and so did 'Captain Doane.'"

Kernan of Missouri.

According to cable advices from Rome, Richard C. Kernan of St. Louis, who is now sojourning in the Eternal City with his family, desires to assist in financing a scheme whereby the grounds of the Vatican can be reclaimed to the Mediterranean by the purchase of a strip of land sixty-five miles long, and thus relieve the holy father of the chief objection he has to imprisonment in the vast confines of the Vatican. Cardinal Secretis appears to have lost interest in politics since his defeat for the senate in Missouri after the republicans carried that state in 1894, says the Washington Herald, and it is said that he intends to devote to the church the attention and money he formerly gave to politics.

For several years he was the Missouri member of the republican national committee and was prominent in all party affairs. He is a thoroughly self-made man. An Irishman by birth, he came to this country early in life and after the usual hardships established a livery business at Fort Smith, Ark. Always a republican, he shared in the profits of the mail and star-route contracts in the southwest and by this means laid the foundation for his present enormous fortune. He was one of the chief promoters of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad, now affiliated with the Rock Island system, and was for many years one of the controlling factors in that property. He has been associated with Senator Atkins in many large business ventures and from these has added greatly to his wealth. Cardinal Kernan and Archbishop Ireland are great friends and it is said the Missourian is one of the die-hard prelate's most ardent supporters for promotion to the cardinalate.

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Money Maker and Spender.

Rufus Brown Bullock, ex-governor of Georgia, who died near Albany, N. Y., a few days ago, was a big and easy money maker. But he spent his income as fast as he earned it. He was careful, however, to carry a large life insurance. His motto was to make good money and live well, protecting his family through insurance.

Mr. Bullock in his youth was a telegraph operator, and was among the first to receive rapidly the Morse code in dots and dashes. When he was an operator in Philadelphia the telegraph business of the country was done by numerous small companies. It was at his suggestion that these small concerns were united in one large company and this was the basis for the Western Union.

Roosevelt's First Speech.

President Roosevelt made his first set speech when he was 10 years old, reports the Washington Herald. At that time he would a bold sailor be. He had read all the marvelous tales of the sea, and his ambition was to sail the ocean blue in command of a stanch craft that would carry him to the uttermost parts of the

earth. He was permitted by his governors to spend much time about the wharves of New York, and he thus became personally acquainted with many of the most famous skippers of that time. Chief among his heroes was a certain Captain Doane, commander of the clipper ship Rival. This old sea dog used to fill the mind of the future hero of San Juan with astonishing stories of storms at sea and hairbreadth escapes from a sepulcher in Davy Jones' locker.

He fired the imagination of the youth and stirred his ambition. In 1858 the boy, who is now president, raised a fund by popular subscription for the purchase of a library for the officers and crew of the Rival, all of whom were his friends. At the head of a delegation of youngsters he visited the ship when it next came into port and with due ceremony presented the library, consisting of forty-five volumes, to the skipper. The presentation speech was made by Mr. Roosevelt. When reminded, a few days ago, of this event by an old friend, the president said he remembered it perfectly, and that frequently he had wondered if any of the officers or crew of the Rival were still alive, and if so, if they remembered his speech. "I thought it was a mighty fine speech," said he, "and so did 'Captain Doane.'"

Kernan of Missouri.

According to cable advices from Rome, Richard C. Kernan of St. Louis, who is now sojourning in the Eternal City with his family, desires to assist in financing a scheme whereby the grounds of the Vatican can be reclaimed to the Mediterranean by the purchase of a strip of land sixty-five miles long, and thus relieve the holy father of the chief objection he has to imprisonment in the vast confines of the Vatican. Cardinal Secretis appears to have lost interest in politics since his defeat for the senate in Missouri after the republicans carried that state in 1894, says the Washington Herald, and it is said that he intends to devote to the church the attention and money he formerly gave to politics.

For several years he was the Missouri member of the republican national committee and was prominent in all party affairs. He is a thoroughly self-made man. An Irishman by birth, he came to this country early in life and after the usual hardships established a livery business at Fort Smith, Ark. Always a republican, he shared in the profits of the mail and star-route contracts in the southwest and by this means laid the foundation for his present enormous fortune. He was one of the chief promoters of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad, now affiliated with the Rock Island system, and was for many years one of the controlling factors in that property. He has been associated with Senator Atkins in many large business ventures and from these has added greatly to his wealth. Cardinal Kernan and Archbishop Ireland are great friends and it is said the Missourian is one of the die-hard prelate's most ardent supporters for promotion to the cardinalate.



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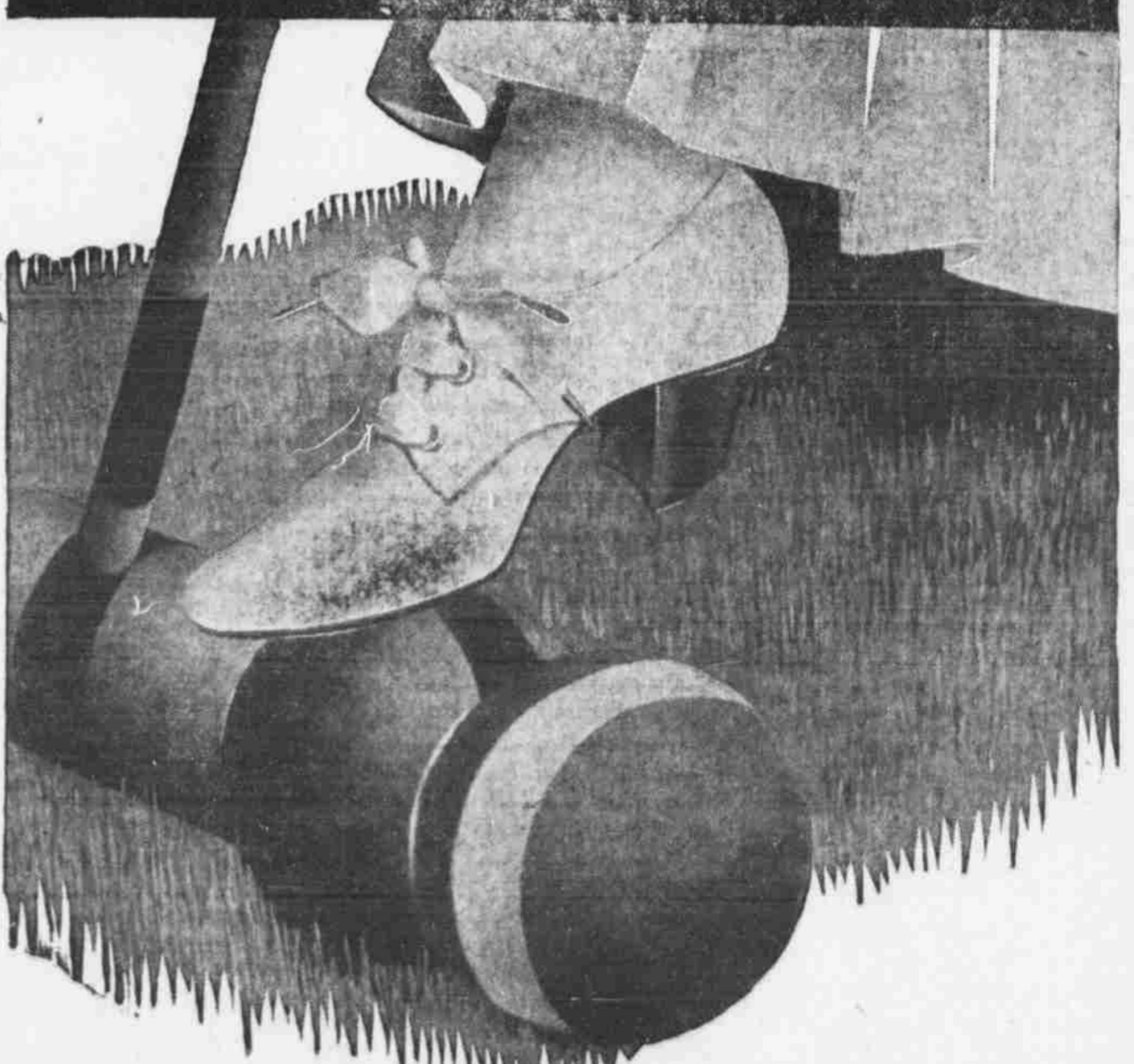
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