JAPAN'S WARSHIP MYSTERY

The Mikasa on Duty Again, but Its Story Untold.

GOVERNMENT SEALS THE BOOK

Secret of Sinking of Togo's Plagship Still Hidden-Belief that it Was Blown Up in a Muting.

The Japanese government has written at last the final chapter in as typical a story of oriental mystery as the world will ever puzzle over. This is the announcement that the battleship Mikasa has been raised from the mud of Sasebo harbor and restored to the list of the imperial navy. The last chapter is typically Japanese, It tells no more than the first and perhaps there will never be more than a few hun-

dred close-mouthed Japanese who will know the real story of the sinking of Admiral Togo's flagship. The Mikasa blew up and sunk at its moorings on September 11, 1905. That was just at the end of the three days' rioting

in Tokio occasioned by the protest of the Japanese people against the terms of the treaty of Portsmouth closing the Russo-Japanese war.

For three days men had been cut down by the awords of the gendarmes in the streets of the capital and the rioting had spread to Kobe, Yokohama, Nagoya and other important Japanese towns. In Kobe the statue of Marquis (now Prince) Ito, which stood in a public market place, had been dragged from its pedestal by an angry mob only the night before the cinking of the Mikasa and set up in derision in the midst of the Yoshiwara, the district of the painted castaways.

Story Told at Time.

When the Mikasa sank the Japanese papers throughout the whole empire published only about three paragraphs about it, telling the bare facts of the disaster, of the suicide of the captain. That was all. Although the flagship of the victorious ment of sallors had gone down with it, the steamer. big dailies of Tokio and Osaka dismissed the matter with the briefest mention, reminiscent of the paragraphs detailing the movements of troops in the field during the campaigns against Kouropatkin, Stoessel and Linevitch.

It was said that shortly after nightfall, while Admiral Togo and the captain of the Mikasa were on another ship entertaining Prince Arisugawa, one of the princes of the blood, fire was discovered near the powder magazines of the Mikasa and, although sid was hurried from neighboring battleshi , the flames reached the magazines. Nearly 300 men lost their lives, the dispatches added. When the captain of the Mikasa heard of the destruction of his vessel he threw himself out of a secondstory window of a hotel in Sasebo and dled of a broken neck.

That was the Japanese version, grudgingly printed in the newspapers. That was the story sent out to the world through the carefully censored government telegraph offices. It was not until two weeks after the sinking of the Mikasa that there appeared in the Shanghai Times a story contradicting the Japanese version and seeming to bear the earmarks of truth.

Something Different. account was to the effect that a Japanese naval officer, who was a guest of an American at a geisha dinner in Tokio and who felt his sake, prematurely allowed himself to narrate the real story of the sinking of Togo's flagship. The riot infection in Tokio and other large cities of under Admiral Togo, he was quoted as having said.

Most of the fighting men on the fleet believed with the indignant citizens ashore that the war had been fought in vain and that through the influence of President THE Roggevelt, coupled with the cleverness of cheated out of the merited fruits of its The sailors on the Mikasa divided into partisan groups, one party supporting the government and another condemning it for accepting terms humiliating

The dispute between the factions finally battle on the night of September 11, when Admiral Togo and the captain of the ship were off duty. The noise of the firing was heard in the city of Sasebo, and this

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Phone Douglas 43. Independent A4318. fact was afterward attested to by some naries living there.

Admiral Togo and even Prince Arisugawa imcelf were putting off from the ship upon which they were having their even ng's entertainment when a fanatical mer her of the insurgent party on the Mikas fired the magazines with his own band and sent half of the crew, friends and enemie

allke, down to death with the hulk, After the appearance of this story in the Shanghai paper the Japanese governmencame out with a prompt deptal of the alleged facts, reiterating briefly the circum stances formerly allowed to be published in Japan. All the Japanese papers reproduced this official statement without com

Our Correspondents' Experience An interesting circumstance in conne tion with the effort of one newspaper cor respondent to send out this unofficial version of the Mikasa incident served to convince those who heard of it that the real story of the battleship's destructions had not been published. There was an Englishman in Tokio, the correspondent of s big London daily, who had won the displeasure of the Japanese government by sending to his paper news which he did not receive at the official information bureau established by the war department. Immediately after the blowing up of the Mikasa this Englishman realized that he was being kept under strict surveillence. Knowing that it would be impossible for him to cable from any Japanese telegraph office the facts that he had learned about the disaster, he prepared to send his story by the purser of an English steamer to Shanghai in order that it might be cabled

the sending out of information which would not pass the censor's pencil. He wrote his story in his room at the Imperial hotel in Tokio and went down to Yokohama the night before the steamer to Yokohama. Once there he jumped into a rickshaw and was driven to the

from that port according to arrangements

Oriental Palace hotel. Another rickshaw followed hard upon his heels. The Englishman jumped out of his conveyance, hurried through the hotel the number of men killed and the details from the back entrance to the front and took another rickshaw to the Chabota, or fleet had been lost and half its comple- sendo to row him in a sampan out to the

Just as he came down the gangplank of the steamer after delivering his cable message into the hands of the purser, to be forwarded from Shanghai, he met his shadow, being rowed at top speed out to the ship. Somehow or other the cable message miscarried and the Shanghal paper was the only one to print what many foreigners believed to be the real story of the sinking of the Mikasa.

Problem for Engineers. After their pet battleship had sunk the Japanese naval engineers immediately began elaborate plans for raising it. Because of the tremendous damage that had been done in the hull of the ship by the explosion of its magazine all ordinary means for getting it up from the bottom were of

no avail. Consequently the engineers had to build a coffer dam all about the Mikasa where it water repairs were made in the hull suffibeing floated the battleship was completely overhauled and refitted at the Sasebo navel

Early in March the ceremonies of reestablishing the flagship in the service were conducted on board the ship. Captain Matsumura, who had directed the refitting operations, read an address of condolen for the souls of the men who had perished in the sinking and a Shinto priest conducted a service in honor of the members of the

crew who had perished then. Every reference made was to the "regrettable fire" that had caused the temporary disabling of the proud ship which had been in the van of all the fights before Port Arthur and foremost in the work of sinking the Russian Baltic fleet at Tou- pretty lawn, serving, as they do, the shima Straits.

COWBOY OF the Russian peace envoys, Japan had been No Longer an Animated Battery, but Can Ride Anything on

It is quite true that the cowboy of today is not a college man, nor one at all eties of deciduous hedge are the buck familiar with the manners and customs thorn, berberry, red twigged dogwood, of polite society. Neither does he go honey locust, English hawthorn, upright became so hot that they had a pitched about his daily task with a brace of six honeysuckle. Russian olive and Siberian shooters slung at his hips and a repeat- sandthorn. ing rifle held in the crook of his arm.

Four Legs.

Barbed wire fences, steam railroads. police courts and penitentiaries have ren- spruce. Norway spruce, white spruce and dered such appurtenances superfluous. And immediately after pay day he does flourish with proper care. not swoop down upon the nearest town, shoot out the lights and take part in a gun fight or two.

For the \$30 or \$40 a month which he recives a strict attention to the duties of strenuous competition a job is a precious thing. The life of the modern cowboy is as full of hard and menotonous work as that of an eastern farm hand, and there is very little difference in the intellectual and social standing of the two.

Though thousands of cattle are grazed

on the plains of the southwest, very few are shipped direct from the range to the market. The places of individual cattle kings have been taken by great stock ompanies which own numerous tracts of range land in various parts of the west. A few years ago a dry season in southern Arigona meant the death of many cattle and very frequently the financial ruin of their owners. The old timers still tell stories of having walked for incredible distances on the carcasses of dead steers. But all that is past-they do things different now. Let a dry year come upon the southwestern ranges and the catle are hustled on board a train and transported to the cattle companies' ranges in Colorade or Montana or Dakota, where the season is good and the feed abundant. No long drives of hundreds of miles in march of new range as in the old days. imply a day or two of rounding up, then a few hours' drive to the nearest shipping point on the railroad. Then perhaps a day in town for the cowboys and back again to the home ranch and the regular

Though the cowboy is not a college graduate he is by no means an ignoramus Usually he is American born and fairly well read, taking the same active interest in current topics and politics that other American citizens do. As a general rule he has been raised in the section in which he is employed and is of youthful appearance. He differs very little from the average American working youth, western dislect stories to the contrary notwith-

In all cowboy bunkhouses there is a pile of current magazines, the contents of which are devouged with avidity. And one is not afrequently treated to the amusing spectacle of a youthful cowbay becoming so tured in modern fiction that he purchases a pair of utterly useless sixshooters, comaces to walk with a swagger and to

mitate the dialect of Red Saunders. But if marksmanship is no longer a qualification of the cowpuncher horsemanship is. The modern cattleman is as proud of his ability to ride anything on four legs as was ever the broncho buster of bygone days, and this is the first fact impressed upon a tanderfoot.-Out West

NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS The Cheapest Lots in Omaha

One is for Good Home, Another for Safe Investment.

MIGHT BE CALLED SPECULATION

Experience Has Taught that Oppor tunities Are Numerous Where Money Can Be Multiplied in Erecting Dwellings.

"We are building our home now both for a home and for an investment, and almost for what some people would call a specula tion," was what one astute young business man said to a certain Omaha architect whom he was consulting on the plans for a home he is building. "We have studied out the whole thing," continued the man, "and I think we know exactly where we stand and what we are doing. In the rapid growth and development of Omaha there have been many opportunities for the purchase of real estate and the erection of desirable dwellings which, if taken advantage of, would, in many cases, have resulted in the doubling and trebling of a man's money beside giving him a home rent free for

he had previously made and utilized in According to men who keep in touch with the home building situation this is a very ommon thing, though some people, strange to say, talk of this as "speculation." And because they themselves brand it as specuwas scheduled to sail. He was followed lation, they timorously edge sway from the bugaboo which they themselves have set up. While buying a piece of property with a view to its sale again in a short time at a better figure-"buying for a rise," as the expression is—can not be called legitimately and strictly investment, it is, nevertheless, making money in about as straight a manner as it is possible to make it. The man government pier. There he engaged a who questions it must be ignorant or cynical. Buying property in this way, of which there is much done in Omaha, should not even in a man's mind, be confused with the opprobrious idea of gambling in real estate. There is all the difference between the two that exists between legitimate banking and transactions in a bucket shop.

Buying property for a rise, to be success ful, requires more than the happy coincidence of a rising market. The process involves keen foresight as to the probable growth of a given locality wherever the property in question may be located, a putting together of the various twos and twos which exist in that locality and a careful adding of the same according to the best known rules in real estate affairs and secing that they make the four which spells desirability, success and prosperity. The question to be decided is, will the surround. ing real estate be built up with the class lay in the mud and after pumping out the of homes which will give to the property in question an augmented value? Are gencient to give buoyancy to the boat. After eral building operations progressing toward the property in question? Is it likely that a buyer can be found who will want the holding a few months or years hence for a price that will represent a good profit?

> In a growing city like Omaha, with its future all before it and with every hand pointing in that direction, property bought almost anywhere and improved is practically sure to show a handsome advance in

"Hedges are becoming more and more a double purpose of protection and privacy and of ornament. Moreover, the hedge costs nothing and does not deteriorate with eties of heage plants which can be secured in the Omaha markets and half a hundred more which can be purchased in nurseries farther north, acclimated to the most rigorous winters. Among the vari-These are said to give the best satisfaction for city lawns, though such evergreen hedges as the hemlock American arbor vitae also can be made to

A new form of investment in Omaha is the co-operative flat dwelling. This is nothing more nor less than a row of flats or apartment houses which are built by the his job is expected, and in these days of people who intend to occupy them as homes, the cost of erecting the whole being equally or equitably divided among them Thus, if there are five apartments in the row and the row costs \$15,000, each of the five pays \$3,000, though, perhaps, the one on the corner might pay something of a bonus for his superiorly desirable part of the house. The heating plant is installed for heating all five apartments and this is shared in equally also. The plan may be carried out on the communistic plan by the five, if they are congenial and able to get along, paying in equal amounts the coal bills, furnace repairs and wages of the man to tend the furnace.

Size of Buildings.

Some of the architectural journals and the New York dailies in commenting upor the great postoffice building just planned for that city, and awarded in competition to Architect McKim, Meade & White, aver that it will be the biggest postoffice building in the world, as it will contain 114,375 square feet of floor area, and add that London comes next, with a postoffice having 101,000 square feet of floor area. These editors must either be misinformed as to the exact size of the proposed new building or they have forgotten Chicago's mammoth structure, supposed the largest building of that character in the world, which belief is further strengthened if the figures given for the New York building are correct. The following interesting data about that great monument has been given out by its designer and deputy architect, F. W. Fitzpatrick, now of Washington. The Chicago postoffice proper contains 344,106 square feet of working space plus 25,000 feet of public corridors, but serving the postoffice divisions. The total floor area of that building, including all the courts and other offices of the government, as well as the postoffice, equals 600,000 square feet, of which 550,000 is working space. There are 11,908,000 cubic feet of space and the building cost 40 cents per cubic foot. The old building it replaced had cost nearly 60 cents per cubic foot. The Library of Congress cost 63 cents and most of the other great monumental buildings have cost over 50

DUAL OBJECT IN BUILDING grand big fireplace and its awinging TIMELY REAL ESTATE GOSSIP great, broad chimney breast and its tilepaved hearth his imagination portrayed from this massive heating cavern when it was in operation. So the visitor vouchsafed to his host a few remarks of ad miration and asked him if he did not "take lots of comfort in winter from that great fireplace." The countryman, whose practical views of affairs did not permit such latitude for tradition or romance quickly replied: "Wal, you see, we don't hev much time; I'm busy chopping wood for it most of the time, and Johnnie, he's busy lugging it in, an' ma, she's busy putting it on the fire." Surely there was not a great deal of opportunity in that farmer's family for romantic, visionary comfort before the fireplace. About the only member of the family who could get

> to keep the fire a-going. Farmers are discovering more and mer that fireplaces and stoves mean too much labor, carrying in coal and lugging out the ashes with all of the necessary work of cleaning up the dust and dirt thrown out by these methods, not to mention the scant comfort they get. They are learning that the best investment for their money is a steam or water heating arrangement by which one fire in the cellar will heat the whole house and save so much labor for pa, Johnnie and ma. By adding a very small amount to the cost of two or three stoves they can buy a compact little outfit which will make the whole house so evenly and healthfully warm that winter becomes a welcome time of resting up, reading and improvement.

> Old-fashioned heating may be all very nice as an ornament to give an impression of homelike beauty, but when it comes to solid home comfort, clean housekeeping, low fuel costs, absolute safety, lowest insurance rates, the radiator method of warming is the only one which the modern farmer can really afford to invest his

LIVE IN A CHICKEN COOP Wealthy Broker and Family Occupy a Strange Domicile in Chicago.

Diogenes lived in a tub, and Thur Balch, stock broker and wealthy member of the Stock exchange, lives in a chicken coop. Diogenes was so independent that he told the great Alexander to get out of his sunshine. Mr. Baich is so independent that he keeps right on residing in a chicken coor and all Highland Park can't coax him ou of it. The chicken coop is a handsome and well constructed hennery, but Highland Park objects to it just the same.

In other words, Highland Park wants Mr. Balch to fly the coop, and Mr. Balch doesn't see it that way. Some years ago Mr. Balch purchased

fine tract of ground at Highland Park, 129 by 329 feet, within two blocks of Ravinia Park station. The people living in the handsome houses welcomed him heartily and waited for him to put up a mansio of stunning style. He, however, promptly built a chicken coop. It was a pretty coop, and Mr. Baich shingled the roof himself. A little later, to the intense surprise of Highland Park, Mr. Balch, wife and daughter moved into the coop and settled down. There they have lived ever since, both summer and winter. Mr. Balch has built an annex to the coop and dug a com-

bination cellar and refrigerator. Within the coop, which is about 25 feet part of the yards around the fine homes of long and ten deep, the family lives in Omaha," says a gardener and nursery- great comfort, while a host of hens and man. "Hedges are most appropriate for a roosters scratch gravel round the door. The coop is divided into three rooms, and no fault can be found with the furnishings, Various neighbors have from time to time asked Mr. Balch when he intended time. There are a dozen different vari- to build on his property. He has always answered, with a pleasant smile, that he had a splendld chicken coop; that chicken coops of such style and beauty were to be found in but few localities and that it should be considered a treat to look at such a structure.

Miss Ruth Balch, daughter of the stock broker, who graduates from the Highland Park High school this summer and is going to Germany to complete her education, lives with her parents in the coop and appears to be as proud of the odd habitation

as her parents. Bayard Taylor, president of a book bindery at 370 Wabash avenue, has two acres adjoining Mr. Balch's property and has for years been improving his grounds with bridges, orchards and lawns. Finding Mr. Balch deaf to all arguments concerning the chicken coop. Mr. Taylor has been growing When the hedge is full grown, Mr. Taylor thinks, it will completely hide Mr. Baich's coop from view.

Mr. Balch, baron of the coop, is about 50 years of age and was a member of the Board of Trade until a few years ago, when he sold his peat and joined the Stock exchange.-Chicago Journal.

SNOWY PEAKS NEAR HOME North America's Stock of Natural

Skyserapers Blanketed with Spaw. The fact is not generally known that some of the most imposing snow mountains in the world lie within the limits of the United States. I refer to the great peaks of Alaska, at least one of which, Mt. Mc-Kinley, is over 20,000 feet high, while Mt. St. Elias is over 18,000 feet and, being situated within twenty-five miles of the coast, can be seen in its entire height from the deck of a vessel. Other magnificent peaks, as Mt. Pairweather and Mt. Crillon. He very close to the shore, and since the line of perpetual snow in these northerly latitudes is St. Elias it is virtually at the water's edge. for the base of this mountain is surrounded by vast gaciers which fow down to the sea), continuous snow and ice surfaces may there be seen rising from 15,000 to 18,000 feet above the spectator. I think I am not mistaken in saying that few, if any, such sights can be witnesserd in any other part of the world. Mountaineering expeditions to these Alaska peaks are very interesting but at the same time very laborious, not because of unusually stiff rock or snow work-neither is probably as difficult as that encountered in the Alps-but largely because they are situated in a wild, unexplored country at great distances from any proper base of supplies, so that before their ascent can be even attempted much time and effort must be expended in the solution of various perplexing problems not pertaining to climbing proper. And this I understand to be also true in a general way of mountaineering in the Himalayas, the Andes and the Caucasus. All of these great monumental buildings have cost over 50 cents, so that Chicago's is not only the biggest, but the most economically built structure of its kind in the country, in spite of its having passed through many vicingitudes. Incidentally 49,000 cubic feet of grapite were used in its construction and over 18,000,000 pounds of steel.

Heating the Rural Home.

A summer guest visiting a farm home up among the Berkshires in New England was very much impressed with the ranges still offer what the Alps no longer

the pleasure that the owner must take Money Conditions Are Favorable for the Building Season.

PLENTY FOR LOANS AT LOW RATES

Prices on Property Hold Firm and Dealers Decline to Shade Fignres or to Let Go at a Sacrifice.

Conditions have righted themselves in the mortgage money market of Omaha Only a few weeks ago it was difficult to secure money from the loan and savings associations, as they had contracted to fur much comfort out of such a heating was nish considerable money and all deposits were quickly used to meet the loans althe old pussy cat, who slumbers on the hearth while the entire family turn in ready made. But the situation has been reversed during the month of April. The savings and loan associations have more money than they can loan and complain that applications are few. During the last week the loans have been practically small. Many days the mortgages filed by the building and loan applications have not averaged \$2,000. The prediction is made that the companies will pile up an enormous amount of money during the summer and that there will not now be a call for as many loans.

> Insurance money has helped the farm loan situation. All the money which the farmers want can now be had in Omaha or through agents in the country. The vaults of such insurance companies as the Prudential, National of Vermont, Travelers of Hartford and the Penn Mutual are seeking western farm loans and increasing their agencies in order to secure them.

> One hundred and seventy-one lots have been sold by Shimer & Chase in the new Industrial suburb of Raiston, and the tract is not supposed to be opened until the middle of May. The company has a number of propositions now for factories and the scheme has all the appearance of suc ceas. Mr. Raiston visited the site Friday and expressed himself as greatly pleased with the work Shimer & Chase have been doing.

> "I looked the city over and I do not know of anything which offers the inducements or the advantages of Seymour park," said Mr. Raiston. "I could not find a site that would do for car works, as there is not a ten-acre tract available. The size of our plant will have nothing to do with the size of our company, as freight cars can be built out of doors and very little of the re pairing need be done inside. Still we will have a big plant and we expect to get a good class of workmen to move to Rais-

> W. J. Burgess, who is building the "English inn flats" at Thirty-eighth and Farnam streets, has bought a lot on Harney street between Thirty-eighth avenue and Thirty-eighth street of J. W. Thomas. Mr. Burgess announces that he will build a residence on the lot for his own home.

> Reports from all parts of the United States show that real estate is more active in the Missouri river cities than in any other cities of the country. New York financial papers report the condition in New England as "well under April of last year," and sales being made at a sacrifice

From cities along the Ohio river and i land the reports say: "The business recession is being felt quite keenly and the num-ber of real estate sales have been reduced. Mortgage money is tight except on very good security and then at high rates.

In the south, where conditions have bee about normal all winter, the business is not as good. An Atlanta paper says: "Real estate prices are lower than last year, with fewer sales and mortgage money is scarce The only redeeming feature in the business situation is the good prices realized from the tobacco crop.

Out on the Pacific slope mortgage mone is scarce and the Van Norden Magazine a journal for investors, says: "The Pacific slope was hit especially hard by the panic and does not seem to have recovered to any extent. Conditions have not improved over last month."

With this lot of gloomy reports from all parts of the United States, the real estate dealers of Omaha have good cause to be feeling good. So far as can be learned no one has sold a single piece of property at a sacrifice. On the other hand, in buying property the prices are found to be fully as high as last year and quite uniform all over the city. It is not a matter of price which causes home builders to decide where to buy. It is simply a choice of location. The prices are about the same in whatever part of the city a buyer chooses to buy desirable property, whether it be in the extreme north part of the city or over south of Hanscom park. As usual, the highest priced property is in the west part of the city and there is no tendency of agents to sacrifice it because of the talk of hard times in the east.

Ground was broken Friday for the new \$40,000 home of Mrs. Will Millard at Thirty-ninth and Davenport streets. Walter Peterson has the contract for building this

H. N. Dickinson has sold on eighty-acre farm on the Platte river, near the Sarpy county line, to J. L. Clark, the price being

A deed filed Friday shows the completion of the deal by which A. C. Foster seat 3,000 feet or even less (in the case of Mt. | cured the brick flats on the southeast corner of Thirty-fifth and Harney streets, the price being \$19,000. Mr. Finley secured three lots and a large house on Thirtythird street, between Martha and Francis streets, on the deal, the consideration for these being \$10,000.

> Definitions. Architect-A man who makes you believe you can't build even a henhouse without him. Broker-A man who separates you from

Broker-A man who refuses your request for a loan so smoothly that you conclude you don't need the money.

Doctor-A man who makes you believe you are sick.

Dentist-A man who makes you forget all your other troubles.

Dressmaker-A weman who makes other women look pretty, whether they are or not.

not.

I awyer-A man who would make the de il a saint for a free.

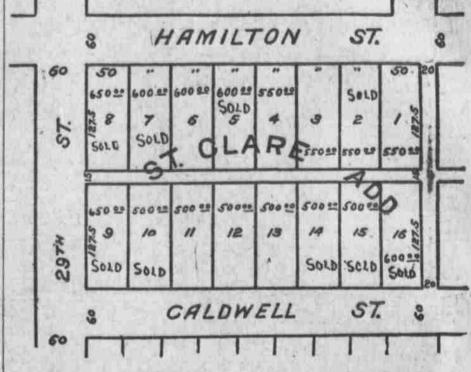
An Honest Man-Rarely met with in these days. The phrase is now used mainly as a joke.—New York Press.

Our Own Minstrela.

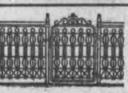
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ROOM 214—This room is 14 1/2 x27 feet, a total of almost 400 square feet in this room, and for anyone desiring large floor space at low rental, this is an exceptional opportunity. The price per month is\$27.50

SUITE 320—This is a very handsome suite of two rooms consisting of one large room, 20x20 feet, with a north light, and a smaller room, 8x20 feet. In connection with the large room is a burglarproof vault. This is a corner office and corner offices are always

ROOM 644-This is the only vacant room on the sixth floor. The room is 12x20 feet and faces the east. It is a decidedly pleasant room and is just the thing for some one who desires a medium sized office. The price per month is......\$20.00

SUITE 306-This is a fine located office on the third floor close to elevator. It is facing on Farnam St., and has a fire proof vault, It is subdivided to furnish two private offices and a reception

ROOM 520-Is a small room on the west side of the building and

Room 105. R. W. BAKER, Supt. Bee Building.

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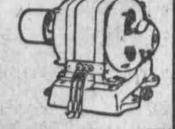
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