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PERHAPS "labor day" has about it an element helpful to an "era of good feeling," for it brings to a close in Minneapolis the strike of tenders and bricklayers, which has been running for about a month, albeit in a sort of half-hearted way. Wages of the bricklayers were not in issue, they going out in sympathy with the tenders. Work is resumed at the old wages, but arbitrators are to say whether or not these were proper.



AN UNSOPHISTICATED reader of the current number of McClure's will conclude that at a time mentioned there were just 35 sheet metal contractors in the "Association," with headquarters in Chicago, for did they not in the "executive session" peculiar to themselves decide that the work on the buildings of the sleeping-car company was fairly worth \$25,000, and did not the lowest bidder take it at \$42,000, and was he not obliged to pay the other members \$500 each? This reader will be confirmed in his figures when he reads "and humorously enough, if you look at it that way, the * * company has not learned to this day that it was held up and robbed."

There are others, however, who have had experience with the officials of this company, who cannot be got to believe that there were so many members in the Sheet Metal Contractors' Association.



FROM the beginning until something like a decade since, if man wanted to go some place faster or easier than his legs would carry him he was obliged to procure the power from without. Then came the bicycle, and he who had the price learned that with it and a given expenditure of time and effort he could cover three or four times the distance that he could when using nature's own and only aids. Then the price fell to where none but the vulgar could ride a bicycle without loss of caste. Now he who has the price proclaims it by going about in some sort of auto wagon, but the distinction gained thereby is doomed to short life, for soon we will see the grocery-man making deliveries with his auto and touring the country with his wife and babies on Sunday in the same. And altho the news from the houseboat on the Potomac is not very exciting, yet if we are to believe half that is told of what is going on in the neighborhood of the Seine, another decade will not have been passed before those who have the price will be seen flying about at all times.

E. P. BASSFORD.



Mr. E. P. Bassford, the subject of this sketch, was born June 7, 1837, at Calais, Maine. His education was received at the Calais Academy, and in the public schools of that place. After having spent seven years at the carpenter's trade, he studied architecture with Mr. Charles Painter, of Boston, Mass., after which he went to Portland, Maine, subsequent to the big fire of 1875, and formed a partnership with Mr. Sparray, an architect of that city.

In 1866 he left Portland and came to St. Paul, where he entered into the contracting business with P. Donovan, they working together for about two years, after which he went to work for one of St. Paul's oldest architects, Mr. A. M. Radcliffe, remaining with him for three years, when he hung out his own shingle, which has been hanging out ever since. He had, it is said, but fifty cents when he began practicing in the Saintly City, and though he says he is now seventeen dollars in debt, we have no fear but that we shall be able to get the price of our subscription from him for the WESTERN ARCHITECT for the current year. Mr. Bassford has probably erected more buildings in St. Paul than any other architect, as well as a great number throughout Minnesota and the Northwest.

He has invariably been a hard worker at his profession, but now the less work he has the better it agrees with him, though you will find him a busy man almost any time one visits his office. He has reared a family of six children, four sons and two daughters. He was twice

married, and went through both events with all the happiness allotted to such occasions.

Mr. Bassford never had a law-suit, nor trouble with any of the many contractors he has dealt with, always getting just what his plans and specifications called for by fair and just treatment to all concerned. He states that he owes his success more to the friendship of the builders than to any extraordinary amount of ability, though he says "there was a time in his life that he thought he knew it all, but the older he grows the less he thinks he knows."



OF STRIKES among St. Paul building trades the present season, that of the plumbers easily leads in importance. Reference has been made in these columns to the attempt by the employers to head off the sympathetic features by injunction and to the refusal of Judge Kelly to grant the relief asked. The sympathetic features did not develop, however, and the employers are now having much the best of it. Not all of them held out against the demands of the union, so that the brunt of the battle had to be met by those who remained in line, but these made a notably determined and able fight. The dispute was mainly over wages, and primarily the recognition of the union does not seem to have played much part. The plumbers' union had things much their own way in St. Paul for some time and had driven at a pretty stiff pace, and while employers had pretty generally stepped up as commanded at the crack of the union whip, there were those among them whose flanks were still smarting from some of the activities of the union's agents. Why the rebellion by the employers was deferred so long does not appear clearly, but when it came there came with it a growing spirit of independence that has its parallel in many political rebellions, and it was not long before one could hear that the employers had determined to have a good deal more to say about the running of their own business in the future. They were pretty well assured of support by the Builders' Exchange, and with few exceptions owners of buildings under way were lenient. These exceptions were mainly among brewers and liquor dealers, who felt that they must not antagonize the unions.

Plumbers imported from the larger cities to take the place of the strikers did not relieve the situation as expected, so that the employers turned their attention to the smaller towns, and advertised for men in these places for a distance of several hundred miles from the seat of the conflict. Now no architect who has had any experience in these small places can have failed to note that the standard of workmanship is not high, yet the individual workman is apt to display much intelligence and aptitude, for the reason that he has always had to rely on his own headwork in getting things together. He is often found free from a certain stolidity that is apt to afflict the city workman, and although little familiar with the most approved ways of putting up work, he is both anxious and quick to learn. It must have been noticed also that with the tendency to simplification of plumbing work more and more is now done by the manufacturer,

while the work of assembling fixtures in a building is relatively both less and simpler than formerly, so that the trade of plumber is not one that impresses one as requiring a great amount of skill.

When, therefore, it became known in the smaller towns that there was a chance to learn how things were done in St. Paul and that good wages were to be had during the learning, there were plenty of men to be had, and they found not only good work awaiting them during the day, but that a trades-school for their benefit was in operation evenings. As might easily be foreseen, here were conditions too strong for any body of strikers unless backed up by sympathetic action by other unions, as this strike was not. We do not learn that any attempt was made by the strikers to take advantage of the state licensing law referred to in a former issue—a law requiring plumbers in cities of more than 10,000 inhabitants to hold a certificate of competency to be issued by a state examining board. Efforts to enforce this law had twice come to grief in the lower courts: once it had been held to be unconstitutional because of exempting smaller communities, and again it had been held by a St. Paul court that the employer is responsible for the character of the work, and that courts could not hold him responsible while dictating his means of obtaining results.



SO LONG and prominently has Mr. Frederick Law Olmstead been before the American public as the foremost designer of parks, that some comments on his recent death in his 82d year fairly express a doubt if he has left any worthy successor. Indeed, it will be a long time before another landscape architect will have such opportunities, and should any one successor be fortunate enough to be commissioned to carry out works of such magnitude as those directed by Mr. Olmstead, the present taste for the "formal" in landscape would be likely to inure to the disadvantage of the later work in comparison. Mr. Olmstead did an unusual amount of knocking about during his minority, some farm work, some country house-work, some sailing, some academy and some special college work, most of it with the ultimate purpose of becoming a farmer, a calling which he did pursue for several years, during which time he made the acquaintance of A. J. Downing and Calvert Vaux. Soon we find him traveling extensively on foot or horseback, and publishing books which exhibit his powers of observation. A conversation with a New York park commissioner led to his employment as superintendent of Central Park in '56, and later he and his friend Vaux won in the competition for the ultimate development of that great pleasure ground, and they were appointed "landscape architects"—many of the lesser structures, such as bridges, will be remembered as of Vaux's designing—but their scheme has been marred to some extent by admitting some of the present large buildings. A list of all the works upon which Mr. Olmstead has been employed looks at first sight to include all of the more prominent parks in the country, and, in fact, his professional activities were not confined to the

limits of the United States. It is said that at Chicago in '93 he located every building of the White City. Mr. Olmstead was associated in business with distinctly able men from time to time, and his son, Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., who has been the active member of the firm for several years, succeeds to the business of the firm.



WHEN one takes account of the number of people who live in towns, the proportion of their time spent indoors and their consequent dependence upon the character of buildings for their health and safety, one wonders at the treatment building inspection departments receive at the hands of the public and representative bodies. As city governments are organized, however, this department ranks as about the least important.

Building laws are more advanced than one would expect, coming as they do from the same people who are responsible for the organization of the departments of inspection. By averaging the requirements of a dozen cities widely scattered between the Atlantic and Pacific states one obtains a very useful manual of building practice.

Curiously enough, much the greater number of these cities collect fees for building permits. This tax on improvements is in no case very large, yet in every case large enough, one would think, to very decidedly change the ratio of actual expenditure to the sums shown by the permits. Exact information is not obtainable as to whether people about to build regard these fees something like personal property taxes and report the expected cost of building on some such basis as they report their personal property to the assessor, but the temptation must be very strong and the self-justification easy. A building inspector could surely lose popularity in some communities by strenuously insisting that the fees prescribed for building permits tally with the cost of building. Whatever may be the effect of the fee system on the statistics of building operations, it certainly is a most ill-considered source of revenue, which some cities have wisely abandoned after a trial. The system finds some defenders, who argue that it is a sort of police charge, made necessary by the ignorance or cupidity of those who build, and that they as a class should be made to pay the cost of inspection. This reasoning would group people who build with liquor sellers and the like, who pay licenses as a contribution to the support of courts and constables, whose business they are supposed to promote.

In reality, building inspection departments came late in the organization of city governments—the city of Des Moines is still without a building ordinance—and city fathers, having parceled out all the revenue among other departments, resort to the fee system to support the new comer. These fees are no joke in some cities, particularly as they apply to small enterprises. In Duluth permit fees for a \$10,000 building cost \$20.50, while in Omaha that time-honored taxing principle "pluck the goose that squawks least" is still more in evidence, for there the fee for a permit for the first \$1,000 of cost is \$4.00. In Mil-

waukee and Denver permits are more equitably paid for. In the former city they are charged on the basis of the size of the building and in the latter at a uniform rate according to cost.

Some cities also have another "cheap and nasty" way of trying to make the building inspection department help pay its own way, or else they permit a disgusting little "graft" to attach to the printing of the building laws. These laws should be neatly printed on good paper, with no great waste in margins—a booklet that can be slipped in the pocket readily—and many towns appreciate this, but others permit the booklets to be "padded" with advertising in all degrees. St. Paul publishes a booklet in which a few ads are inserted on colored sheets. These are not very confusing, and not being excessive in number do not greatly increase the size of the publication. New Orleans and Denver, however, go to greater lengths, and admit advertisements in a form and in amounts to make it a positive nuisance. Sheets are printed with sections of the law on one side and "ads" on the other, while both are indexed in the same style, the law index being immediately followed or preceded by the index to advertisers. The latest edition of the building laws of Minneapolis is printed in easily the worst form of all. To architects who are accustomed to decent and orderly advertising in their literature, and who have some notion of the value of time and space, this jumble of laws and advertisements in a little reference booklet looks to be about the limit of petty saving or petty "pickings."



Secretary of the Treasury Shaw last month removed Mr. Henry Ives Cobb, special architect for the Chicago Federal building. No cause was assigned for this action. The building will probably be completed under the sole supervision of the supervising architect's office.

The first appropriation for the new building was made February 28, 1895, and today it stands without a window or a floor. It was expected that the erection of the building would consume five years, but the date of its completion is still problematical after eight years and six months. Vigorous protests have been made to the Treasury Department from time to time.

Mr. Cobb made the following statement recently:

"I was appointed special architect under a special act of Congress and served under Secretaries Carlisle and Gage. As to the rupture between Secretary Shaw and myself I have only to say that his methods do not conform with my ideas, and it is better that he should work with someone with less professional reputation at stake."



TREE planting, according to a news item, has been taken up by the Pennsylvania Railroad in order to have a future supply of ties of its own. The corporation has many odds and ends of land acquired in obtaining right of way which it has been leasing for farming purposes, but it now proposes to plant them to trees as the leases expire, and has already ordered a larger number of locust trees for transplanting. Locust is not spoken highly of for the purpose, but if we remember rightly the wood is prized for fence posts, which would indicate that it will prove valuable for ties.



HALL SEAT IN ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STYLE.
For Mrs. Edward C. Gale, Minneapolis.
Designed and Manufactured by Wm. Yungbauer, St. Paul, Minn.

WILL MEET AT ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis will have as her guests on October 5 and 6 the leading architects of the United States. Beginning on Monday, October 5, the Architectural League of America will hold its annual meeting here. This gathering of renowned architects fortunately comes at the right period in the history of St. Louis. During the past year civic pride has been greatly stimulated, and as these men are leaders in the great work of making cities beautiful, their papers and discussions on architecture will be listened to and read with much interest by public-spirited St. Louisans. The general practice of the League at its annual meetings will be followed out and photographs of the best work done during the year by members will be on exhibition at the St. Louis Architectural Club. This will no doubt be one of the most popular features of the meeting, and should attract all those who are interested in beautiful buildings.

Mr. Ernest Helfensteller, of the Club, is undoubtedly the right man in the right place when it comes to providing entertainment for any number of guests. He has arranged a program that promises to make this meeting one of the most memorable in the history of the League. Early arrivals will be entertained at the club rooms on Sunday and shown about the city by the entertainment committee. On Monday morning there will be a short meeting in the Architectural Club rooms to organize the convention. The delegates will then take a car ride about the city, winding up at the World's Fair administration building, where lunch will be served, and the second session of the convention will be held in Convention Hall at the World's Fair grounds. Tuesday's meeting will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts. All papers prepared in advance will be read at this meeting. On Tuesday evening the delegates will be entertained with an old-fashioned symposium at the Architectural Club. The American League of Architectural Clubs stands for the betterment of architecture in America, and St. Louis is indeed fortunate in having an opportunity to entertain its members.



HARROSE HALL" DOME OVER GRAND STAIRCASE.
Henry Lord Gay, Architect, Chicago.

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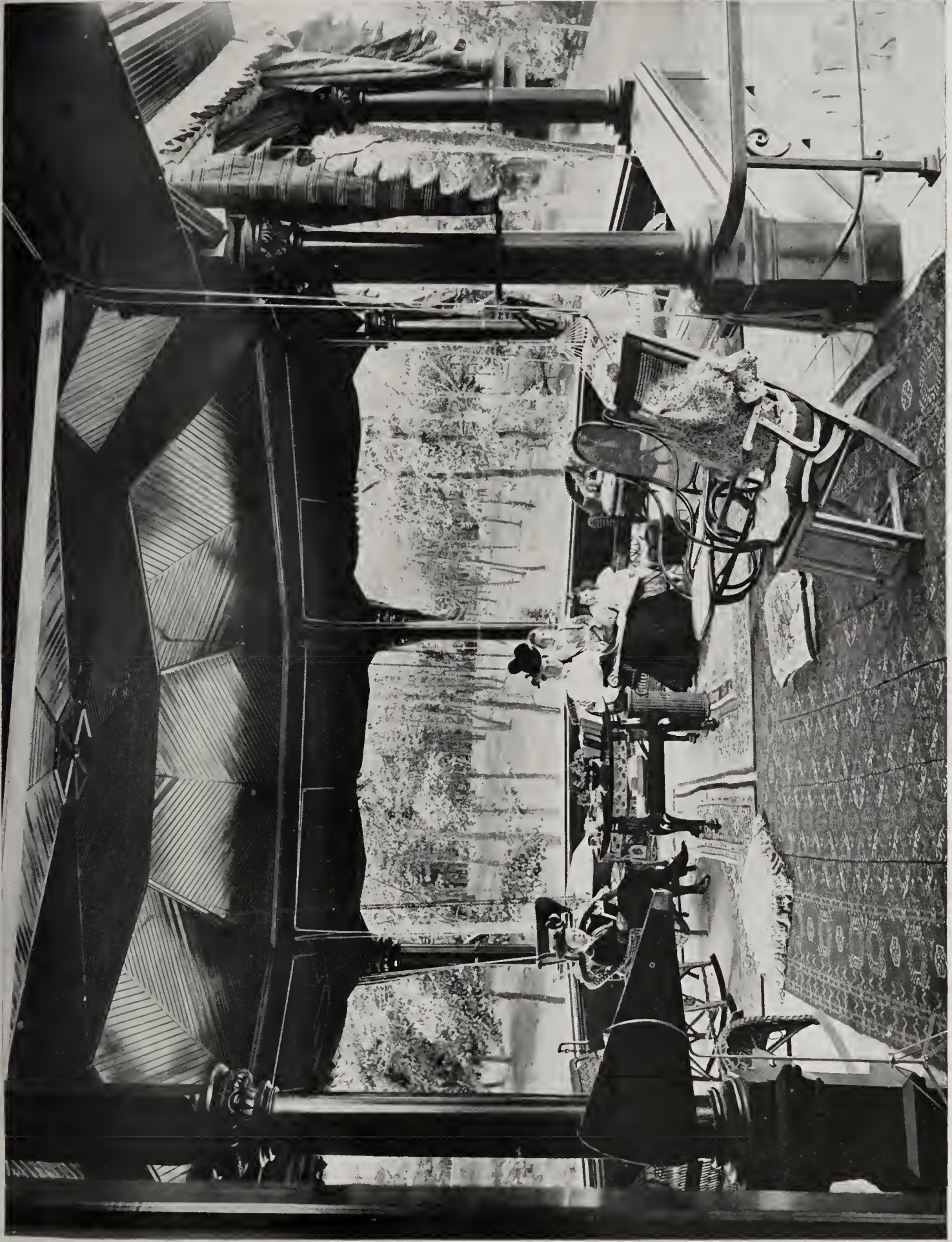
"HARROSE HALL" - GRAND STAIRCASE AT BALCONY LANDING.
Henry Lord Gay, Architect Chicago.

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"HARROSE HALL" VIEW IN PARLOR LOOKING NORTH.
Henry Lord Gay, Architect, Chicago.

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„HARROSE HALL”—OPEN PAVILLION.
Henry Lord Gay, Architect, Chicago.

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"HARROSE HALL" - CARRIAGE PORCH.
Henry Lord Gay, Architect, Chicago.

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HARROSE HALL" - GRAND STAIRCASE AT FIRST STORY.
Henry Lord Gay, Architect, Chicago.

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"HARROSE HALL"—EAST FRONT FACING ROADWAY,
Country Seat of Mr. Harvey G. Selfridge, Lake Geneva, Wis.
Henry Lord Gay, Architect, Chicago.

LINCOLN
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PLASTIC CEILINGS IN RELIEF, COLONIAL DESIGN.



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OLD FORT SNELLING MINN.
REMODELED FOR ONE SQUADRON OF CAVALRY.
UNDER DIRECTION OF LT. COL. GEO. E. POND
D. Q. M. GEN. U. S. A.
1820 — 1903.

PERSPECTIVE DRAWING OF THE REMOVED
Drawn by V



PLAN OF OLD FORT SNELLING, MINN.
Wilson.

September, 1903.

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AN ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION.

BY P. U. DEKAF.

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I had worked hard at the drawing table in an architect's office in New York for a number of years, and found myself wearing out. On the advice of my physician I went west in search of health and recreation.

When I arrived in a well known western city, the first thing that struck me was to find if there were any old acquaintances of mine in the list of architects. On looking over the directory I found Jack Morton, who had learned the profession in the same office as myself. Calling on him, I was very cordially received, and when I told him I wished to see the harvesting done in the great grain fields of the west, he at once invited me to accompany him to an architectural competition up the country, where I could see, not only the grain harvesting, but also the way forehanded county commissioners and shrewd architects harvest their winnings. So we went the next day to the county seat of Jay county. There were six architects there, some of whom had been there for a week. They consisted of my friend Morton, Smith, Fox, Slick, Bulldozer and Knowitall. The commissioners numbered five: Ole Olson, a Scandinavian; Hans Schweitzer and Adolph Piepel, Germans; Henry Hawkins, an Englishman, and Patriek McMurphy, who said he was "Oirish, begob."

Morton introduced me to the commissioners as "a brother commissioner from a neighboring state, who wished to be present at the meeting to gain information as to the procedure when a court house was to be built in his county," and I was at once given a seat among the commissioners.

The competing plans were on exhibition for the commissioners and the citizens, but the architects were not permitted to lay eyes on them. While studying these various triumphs of the architectural profession I heard the landlord say to the commissioners: "Gentlemen, if yez'll kape thim architits in the city for three days, o'll not charrge ye wan cint for what yez get at my hotel." On hearing this the commissioners immediately adjourned until the next day at 3 p. m., in order to circulate among their constituents and get in touch with the prevailing sentiment on the plans.

The architects at once went to work. Morton asked the board of commissioners down to the hotel bar to have something. They accepted with an alacrity that was simply enthusiasm. The other architects claimed they must have a share in treating their friends, the commissioners, and at once ordered the drinks all around. All charged it on their bills. By sounding Commissioner Schweitzer, Mr. Morton found that he was a Lutheran, and he at once claimed to have been descended from one of the original Lutheran families in Germany. He was a good singer, and so warmed up to his new-found brother Schweitzer that he was invited to attend the church sociable given by the Ladies' Aid Society to help the treasury, and the benefit of a social hour. He sang for the audience all the

songs he knew and wished he dared tackle "Der Wacht am Rhein," but he was afraid to because he might fall down on the German pronuneiation that he had said he was so proud of. Brother Schweitzer took him to his own home, where he had a cabinet organ. He found here such classic pieces as "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," "Nieodemus Was a Slave," and other such favorites. The next morning he was too hoarse to speak above a whisper, but the Lutheran church congregation was working hard and faithfully for the Morton plan.

Smith attached himself to the other German commissioner, Mr. Piepel, who was chairman of the board. He soon discovered that he had a beautiful daughter, with whom he could not bear to part, for she was well on to 45 and still unmarried. He felt sure, he told Mr. Piepel, that a young lady of such grace and accomplishments must be very devoted to her father and mother to resist the multitude of suitors she must have had, because she could not bear to leave home. He informed Mr. Piepel that he was proud of the German blood that coursed in his veins, and of the German name he bore. (He explained that it was properly "Schmidt," but that he wrote it Smith because he was not proud and was willing to be like the ordinary name.) He dilated on the remarkable resemblance of Mr. Piepel to Bismarck, and he was perfectly acquainted with the features of that statesman, for he had a picture his Grandmother Schmidt had sent him from Berlin. And the chairman's wife was a perfect image of Queen Victoria, whom he had seen, while their oldest son was so much like the Prince of Wales that if he were to go along the Strand in London the crowd would certainly cheer him for the prince. He courted the beautiful daughter of the household until nearly daybreak, and had the whole family working hard for the Smith plans.

Knowitall caught on with Mr. Olson, whom he steered into one of the several saloons which the county seat boasted, and set 'em up in the "forty-rod" which the place afforded. Between drinks he assured Mr. Olson that he should be given the plans. It was drawn after the most approved style of Seandinavian architecture. He told Mr. Olson that he could see he was gifted with an eye for harmony and symmetry, and knew that he could see at a glance the Knowitall plans were the only set in competition which preserved all the harmonies of the old country, and united with them all the conveniences which were up-to-date. He stayed with him until the "forty-rod" began to work, when he got into a fight with the bar-keeper, and both he and Mr. Olson were deposited in the street.

Bulldozer had letters from the bankers of his city and the governor of the state, in which they all united in declaring him to be the best, and in fact the only real architect in the country.

Fox was armed with letters from the leading members of the elergy of his home, stating that he was not only a very able architect, and the one in whom they all placed their entire reliance, but he was also a "Christian gentleman," and urged that he be given all courtesies

possible. The Irish commissioner got hold of him in the progress of his missionary work, and both were "full" in the morning.

Slick was loaded with letters from the wholesalers of his city to the retailers at the county seat, stating that he was the only honest man in the architectural profession in the whole Northwest. He was up early in the morning and got a string of fish (bought them on the street), which he presented to Mr. Hawkins, and stopped to breakfast with him, and told him he had connections in London himself. After breakfast he wandered to the hotel and made a bee line for the bar, which he patronized freely, charging it all on his bill.

At three o'clock the second day the two Germans were the only sober men among the commissioners, and they adjourned for 24 hours more.

I had not seen anything of Morton during this period, but shortly after the meeting adjourned he navigated along the street, taking up the whole road and singing a tune to which he tried to fit the words of "My Country 'Tis Of Thee."

During the interval between their sobering up and the time for the meeting, the architects all kept at work on the lines which they had begun. Commissioner Piepel demanded of Smith if he intended to marry his daughter. He had been making violent love to her, but meant it to be platonic, as he had a wife and family at his home. This caused him to keep out of sight the remainder of the day, and he went to fish the next morning with Slick.

At 10 a. m. the architects were having a re-union at the bar, indulging in enthusiasm water, and charging it on their respective bills. A more fraternal lot of men was never seen than these architects; each extolled the good qualities of the others, and was delighted to mention the virtues that they possessed. I was introduced to them by Morton as a county commissioner, looking for pointers to be used when my county was ready to build. Every one of them took me aside quietly and told me how to begin, and said that the other fellows there were all good enough, but that their architectural knowledge was limited. Morton was intensely amused at this.

At last 3 p. m. arrived and the commissioners assembled promptly. They balloted to see which architect should have the privilege of explaining his plan first, and the lot fell on Bulldozer. His plan was highly colored with Paine's Gray. He began by diving into acoustics, reflected sound, pure ventilation, excellency of design, and finished with a lecture on classic architecture, after which he declared his plan was made. He also gave them the tip that he was the best architect in the whole world and owned money enough to build the court house and the whole town. He had documents to prove it, and he then unlimbered the letters from bankers and the governor. He closed by saying that the other architects were absolutely without any conception of the finer points of the architectural profession. He demanded that the plans be awarded to him on general principles. Commissioner McMurphy objected to the building being painted blue as shown in the sketch. "Because there are two Dootch-

min ahn the booard, it don't make iny difference. The building must be painted grane or nuthin'. We don't want that plan, be-gorry."

Fox was next chosen, and Commissioner McMurphy sang out, "Howld on, Fox, is she painted grane?" "She is," replied Fox. "Go ahead, Darby," replied the Irishman. "Dot vos a lie," vociferated Commissioner Schweitzer, "it vos red, ain'd id?" The plan was a nice water coloring with brick red for the building. "Yous is color blind, Dootchy," remarked McMurphy. Mr. Schweitzer replied, "Yust look vonce already at dot picture. Vas it red or vas it green?" "Ay skal go by Minapolis vonce to see about it, ay tank," remarked Commissioner Olson. Fox spoke of the divine gift of nature in maturing brains to grasp the problem inspired in Scripture, where it speaks of a house not built with hands. "This, gentlemen, is the thought that inspired me as I worked out this beautiful plan, which, if you adopt, will be to you and your county a thing of beauty and a joy forever. And gentlemen, though I know that no such low considerations would influence such models of propriety as I have found you to be, still in adopting my plan you will be doing a good turn for your political futures; for the voters of the county will say (and rightly), that commissioners who can get such a stately building as the one my plan shows, for the measly sum it will cost, deserve any office at the hands of the people that they may ask. Now, as to these other architects present here, while I do not wish to say anything about them, still it is my duty to brand them as thieves and robbers, and they are all A. P. A.'s." "Stop," said Commissioner McMurphy in a roar, "I would loike to see yez outside a minute," he added in a lower tone. The commissioner then took Fox outside, but being near the door I heard the following conversation:

McMurphy: "You son-of-a-gun, you put your foot in it that time. The Englishman, the two Dutchmin, and the Swade are all A. P. A.'s."

Fox: "Oh, well, I'll fix that all right. D— fools, ain't they? Let's go back."

Returning, Fox began: "Gentlemen, I said that the other architects were all A. P. A.'s, and so they are, tho' they do not belong to that noble society. We who are really architects and not merely draughtsmen, call one who cannot create a noble design such as mine, 'A Poor Architect,' and abbreviate it to the letters 'A. P. A.' I don't like it very well to have them called after the name of our society, for I am a member." "You're a liar," McMurphy interrupted, in a stage whisper, with a knowing wink at me. "I want the plans from your hands," continued Fox, "not that I care for the price, but because I know you gentlemen appreciate the efforts of an honest man in producing a work of art. These other architects are blaguards and none of them are eligible to the A. P. A. They have all been blackballed. If the local lodge met this week I would be pleased to stay over and attend, were it not that I have sickness in my family."

The next architect selected to explain his plan was my friend Morton, and he was a dandy. His plan was a pen and ink drawing. He began: "Gentlemen, your of-

office is one of great responsibility. You are of the most honorable gentlemen in the state, selected for your particular fitness for this work. The people do not appreciate the value of your honorable self-denial, and it is a sin and a shame that you are called in here to work for the paltry sum of \$5.00 per day. There are but five of you gentlemen. I propose if I get this plan to prevent you being robbed of your just deserts, and I will make each of you a present of \$20.00. Now, for my plan; it speaks for itself, and its classic lines lie in modest grace like your beautiful daughters in full dress costume. Note the light and shade as it plays upon the beautiful columns and around the magnificent dome. 'Tis suggestive of the light and shadow of every day life, of joy and sorrow, but to be crowned at last with a beautiful dome of dazzling white. Mark the beautiful floors, with the octagonal, non-reversible, double gnomon, quarter-sawn, non-combustive, self-combustive ceiling. This court house, gentlemen, is twice as large as any of the others, and can be built for half the price——"

"How vos dot?" inquired Commissioner Schweitzer.

"Simply because all the other architects are scoundrels and liars," Morton resumed, unabashed. "I want this plan upon its elegance and my honesty. In the hands of any of these other architects, they will steal everything the county owns but its good name; and they would take that, but everyone that knows them would see at once that it was borrowed plumage."

Commissioner Schweitzer then inquired: "Pat, vos not dot building painted black, alreddy?" "It is," exclaimed McMurphy, "and it's no pirate house we want, Morton, be-gorry."

Chairman Piepel broke in: "Dot man vos a goot singer, und I votes mit him. He sings 'Nearer, My God, to Thee,' pretty much splendid all righd."

McMurphy broke in: "Morton's building is painted black, bedad, and that don't go down. It has the appearance of a Berkshire pig intoirely, and o'i don't give a dom for his singing. It's not singing masses for the dead we are."

"That blawsted bloody plan his no good," exclaimed Commissioner Hawkins.

Smith was next admitted to display his plan. "Gentlemen," he began, "you see my plans before you. I claim to be an honest man, and the building is a fireproof structure. The other architects are so hardened in sin that they have no fear of fire. They go on in the same old way of constructing buildings without any of the modern improvements, not even a fire-escape. Three of these architects have been brought before the police court of our city for stealing bicycles and bribing voters, and the other two have been in court on a charge of stealing horses, one from a Lutheran pastor and one from a Catholic priest. This fireproof material specified in my plan has been discovered but two weeks. This terra cotta arch that I show you was invented by my father, who is architect to the king in the old country. He has sent this patent to me with the privilege of letting the first person in this country to use it, get it for nothing. I make you

the offer, gentlemen, and it will cost you nothing if you use my plan. The expense to anyone else will be \$250.00. If you do not care to use it, and I get the job, then there will be \$250 to divide among the five commissioners."

"H'is that the way the bloody thing h'is going to look?" said Commissioner Hawkins, "and there h'is not a blooming drop h'of paint on it." "I vos in favor of dot myself, alreddy," said Commissioner Schweitzer, "und we can paint id to suit ourselves."

Architect Knowitall is given the floor, and begins: "I have been in Europe, I have studied in France, I came from Revolutionary stock, I have blue blood in my veins, and I know it all. I am as much superior to these others, who call themselves architects, as a thoroughbred horse is to a sway-backed, wind-broken, spavined nag. It is useless for me to explain these plans to you, as it takes a special training to appreciate them, and that is something which neither you nor the others have. You have not made any such pretense, and that is more than can be said for these others. I feel myself disgraced to be in such company as these thieves, robbers and deadbeats. These other architects don't know the first principles of construction or good manners, and it is your duty to the citizens of this county and to yourselves to take my plan, simply on my say-so. That's all, gentlemen."

"Was it a plan yez was tellin' us about, or was it a political speech yez was makin'?" inquired Commissioner McMurphy.

Architect Slick was next invited to tell of his plans. "I appreciate the fact that these scoundrels of picture-makers have been before you with highly colored plans that you could not understand, that I could not understand, and that they could not understand themselves. I have come before you with a plain piece of brown paper and a red pencil with which I have made a ground plan of your proposed building. Note the different rooms and see the arrangements, also note the convenience of the exit at the back of the building. Look at the vaults which I have constructed for you, and observe the ventilation of the same. Don't you like it? Now, gentlemen, I make this offer. Get a price from all the other architects of the amount they will do the work for, and if any of them beats my price I will donate this ground plan to the commissioners. If they don't, then you are to have the difference between my bid and the next lowest to divide among yourselves. These rascals are simply the worst that ever struck this town. When I make the elevations I propose to put the British lion on the top of the front gable, flanked on one side by the German eagle and on the other side by the coat-of-arms of Norway. On the top of the dome I propose to place the flag of Grand Old Ireland, and on the low gable at the back, the stars and stripes, emblematic that you gentlemen are the custodians of the country, Yankee Doodle to the contrary notwithstanding." The entire board exclaimed with one voice, though with different brogues: "That suits us to a dot."

"Call in dose oder architects, Pat," said the chairman, "und tell 'dem to say how much for dey vill do dis yob like Mr. Slick has said."

McMurphy announced: "Mr. Chairman, they ain't outside bedad."

Commissioner Olson at once dispatched a messenger with these instructions, "Run down to de depot and see if them arehitedt fallers have stole my new self-binder."

The arehiteets were finally routed out of the hotel, where they had been increasing their bar bills, and none of them had a self-binder conealed about him. Commissioner McMurphy addressed them thus: "Gentlemen, the board have dieoided that aieh wan of yer plans is better than the other fellers' and each wan of youse must come before the board all together separately and till the chairman fair and square how much youse ax for thim plans."

All presented bids. Slick's was the lowest, at \$150.00, and Fox's next at \$600.00. This meant \$450.00 to be divided between the five commissioners. This threw them into exceedingly good humor, and the announceement was made that Slick was selected architeet for the court house, but the plans were not exhibited to the other architeets nor the price made known.

All the other architects promptly came up and cordially shook hands with Slick. Each told him confidentially that, outside of himself, his preference was for him to get the job. Slick then set them up for the architeets and the comissioners at the hotel bar.

The other architects then paid their bills at the hotel, but being short of ready change they gave their cheeks in payment. I learned later that the landlord of the hotel was down three days later, hunting five prominent city arehiteets whose checks had been returned, marked "No funds," or "Aecount overdrawn."

NOTE—We venture to say Mr. Slick, who proved himself adroit enough with the committee, will be perfectly competent to equally look out for his own interests when it comes to letting contracts on the construction work, and material to be used in the building.

The selection of plans because they are offered cheap, is not always cheapest in the end, nor is this always true with those offering to do the construction work the lowest. The man should be selected whose ability and reputation are unquestionable and he should be paid well for his work, then he can feel free to give his undivided attention to the problem, thereby making it a monument to his skill, industry and ability, as well as to the good judgment of the public.

COURSE IN FIRE PROTECTION.

Armour Institute, Chicago, has announced, beginning with September, the first course in fire protection ever established. This will be in connection with underwriters' laboratories. The object of this training will be to decrease the enormous fire loss of this country, aggregating \$150,000,000 a year, and the expenditure of \$200,000,000 more for the maintenance of fire departments. The expert fire protector will not only understand the insurance business, but must be a chemist, an electrician, an architeet and a builder. The student will be taught every process of fire extinction.

THE PETRIFIED FORESTS OF ARIZONA.

We left the train at Holbrook, the county seat of Navajo county, for a visit to the great petrified forest—one of the most remarkable natural curiosities in the world. After a breakfast in the little upland town, our party, numbering 18 individuals, was loaded into five canvas covered wagons, commonly known as "prairie schooners," and set forth upon a ride of about 16 miles, to the rim of a great mesa, where the largest portion of the petrified forest has been laid bare. There are several other points in Navajo county where fossil trees are exposed, the nearest point to the railroad being some 8 or 10 miles from Adamana, a station to the eastward from Holbrook. It is probably that most travelers visit this latter place because of its proximity to the railroads, but the greater extent of the Holbrook forest, as well as the richer and more diversified coloring of the fossil wood, makes this the more desirable point at which to study this marvel of Nature. Ascending the northeastern rim of the mesa, which is still capped with the sandstone in place, one has before him a vast depression of some 3,500 or 4,000 acres in extent, thickly strewn with the trunks of great silicified trees. These seem originally to have lain just below the capping stratum of sandstone. As the penetrating waterflow cut out the softer material underneath the sandstone, the trees and their rocky covering dropped into the valley-like depression that was produced. Around the rim of the valley many large tree trunks protrude from beneath the sandstone for several feet, entirely unsupported at their free ends. These seem to have been originally a variety of conifer, or perhaps to have been related to the great redwoods, *sequoia sempervirens*, of California. They undoubtedly belong to the carboniferous age, and are a portion of that vast forest which once grew in this now treeless waste, and that went to form the great coal measures that underlie its surface. By some singular freak of Nature, instead of being preserved to feed the fires of man, a stony semblance of these great forest giants is presented to feed his wonder. The texture and form of the dead trees are clearly discernible, every fiber of the wood transformed into gleaming agate, jasper, sard, carnelian or chalcedony. The colors most prominent are reds and browns, with occasional blue and green tints interspersed with translucent, colorless chalcedony. The heart of some logs is a mass of sparkling crystals of quartz, occasionally showing amethystine tints. At one point these great logs lie so close together as to remind one of the yard of the saw-mill, where the logs have been rolled together to await the saw. They are usually broken into sections of not more than 8 or 10 feet in length, as squarely across the fiber as if separated by the woodman's cross-cut saw. Some have been discovered that measured 20 feet in diameter at their base, and at a break 100 feet from the base 10 feet in diameter. One that lies with all its sections continuously placed and in contact, I paced from end to end

130 paces—probably at least 360 feet. The smaller branches, if they were ever silicified, have been broken into tiny fragments that now strew the surface of the valley. All the centric layers of wood that mark the annual growth of the trees are clearly shown by the varying hues and tints of the stone, and offer a most interesting study to the lithologist, as well as a never-ending source of surprise and wonder to the mere sight-seer.

The Petrified Forest is indeed one of the wonders of this Arizona wonderland, and must attract increasing numbers of visitors as it becomes more widely known. It is now one of the reservations of the national government, and is protected from the vandalism that might otherwise, in time, mar some of its singular beauty.

Standing amid these mute memorials of a long-gone past, a mood of reverie is easily induced. What cycles of change and what tremendous cataclysms have these stony forms survived! What sort of birds once rested in the branches that these great trees up-bore? What beasts lurked in the shadows that were cast by their leafage? Fossils of animals of unknown and extinct species are found scattered about among these immense rocky trunks, in chemical composition now pure dolomite or magnesian limestone. Certain it is that before the subsidence of the land which bore these forests there was abundant life of some sort here that was buried beneath the rushing waters as the land slowly sank and the great trees toppled to their overthrow. Through long ages the ocean detritus was dropped through yielding waters, grain by grain, until the great sandstone stratum was piled upon these fallen monarchs of the primeval forest. Then followed an age of slow uplifting that drained off the waters, and then the erosion by stream and storm that at last restored these buried giants to the light of day. But what mind is able to grasp this appalling procession of the ages?—Alfred Tree in Springfield Republican.

NORCROSS COMPANY SOLVENT.

The reorganization of the Norcross Bros. Company, which recently assigned with liabilities of \$2,000,000, was last month assented to by Judge Brown after a hearing in the United States Circuit Court at Boston, the assets to be transferred from the receivers to the reorganization committee. The discharge of the receivership was consented to by all the creditors and the receivers. The receivers filed a petition for authority to assign the Harvard medical school contract, which, as receivers, they had taken to the Norcross Bros. Company. That petition also was granted, as it has the assent of Harvard College and the Norcross Bros. Company. These proceedings practically close the receivership, and the company is adjudged solvent. It is considered a most remarkable settlement of so large an interest. Judge Brown took occasion to compliment counsel on the rapidity and accuracy with which they had straightened out such a vast and complicated affair.

EXPORTING AMERICAN FIRE BRICK.

A Louisville, Ky., fire brick concern has just closed a contract for twenty-five car loads of fire brick to be sent to Spain for use in a large factory in course of construction at Madrid. The contract was won over bidders in Germany, England and others in the United States. The quality of brick made in Louisville and vicinity has always been acknowledged to be superior to that made in any other section of the country, but previously in cases of foreign demand England and Germany had always held their own. However, the field is now open to invasion, because after a thorough investigation the Spanish concern decided to take the Louisville brick. The shipment will be ready in about five weeks, and will be sent via New York to Cadiz and thence to Madrid.

"This is the first contract for Louisville brick ever received from a foreign port, and brick manufacturers are much gratified that the fame of the clay in that section is being so widely advertised. The contract is not only very large, but the advertisement it gives Louisville as a fire brick center will be worth a great deal."

A NEW BUILDING MATERIAL.

A new building material which promises much for the future is called Uralite. It is the invention of a Russian artillery officer and chemist named Imschentzky. Uralite is composed of asbestos fiber, with a proper proportion of silicate, bicarbonate of soda and chalk, and is absolutely fireproof. In a soft form a sheet of uralite is like an asbestos board; when hard it resembles finely sawn stone and has a metallic ring. Besides being a nonconductor of heat and electricity, it is practically waterproof (and may be made entirely so by paint), and it is not affected by either atmospheric influences or by the acids contained in smoke, which rapidly destroy galvanized iron. It can be cut by the usual carpenter's or woodworker's tools; it can be veneered to form paneling for walls or partitions; it can be painted, grained, polished and glued together like wood; it is not affected when exposed to moisture or great changes of temperature, and it can be given any desired color either during the process of manufacture or afterward.

THE ARCHITECT AND HIS FEES.

Andrew Carnegie's palace on the Highlands of Fifth avenue, New York, cost in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000, it is said. Babb, Cook & Willard were the architects. It is the rule in America to charge a fee of 5 per cent for all architectural work, except when special arrangements are made; therefore Babb, Cook & Willard made \$150,000 out of the Carnegie home. In Paris there is a sliding scale for architects. Buildings costing more than \$150,000 will pay 4 per cent, those between \$125,000 and \$150,000 4 1-2 per cent, between \$75,000 and \$125,000 5 per cent, between \$40,000 and \$75,000 6 per cent. It is believed by leading architects that such a scale should be adopted in this country.

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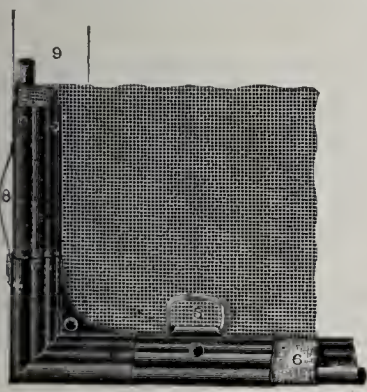
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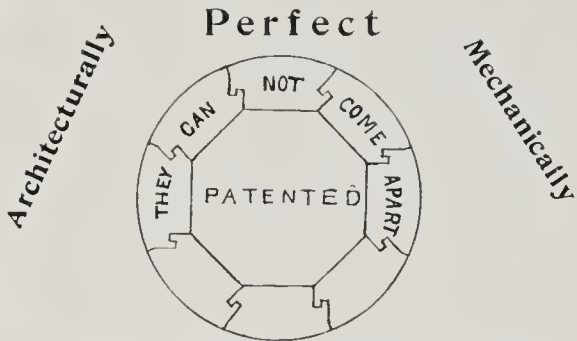


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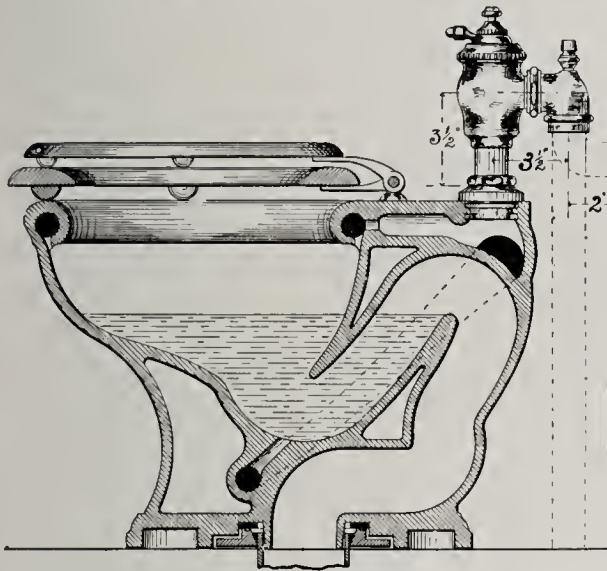
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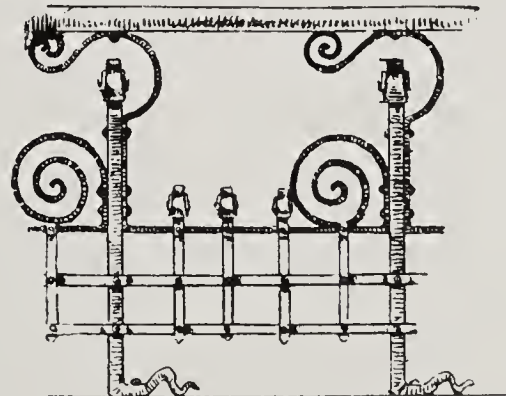
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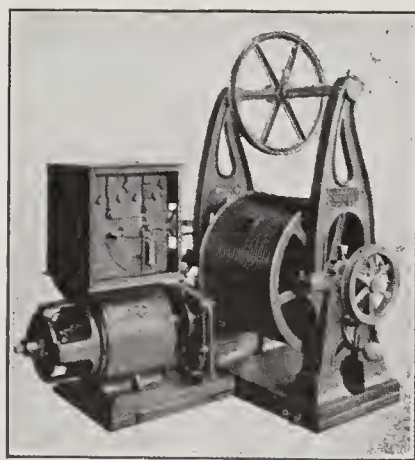
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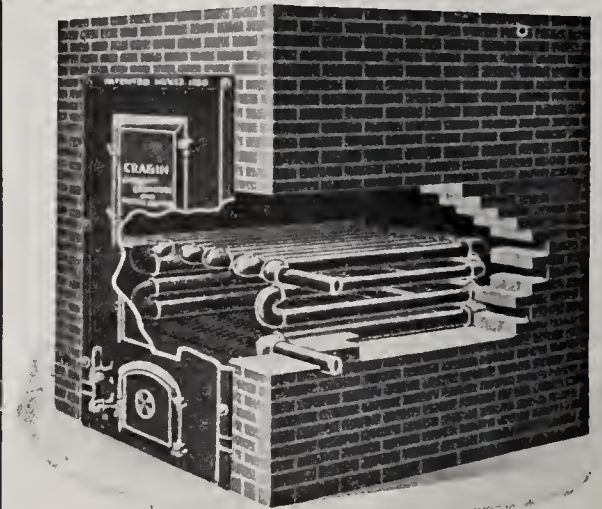


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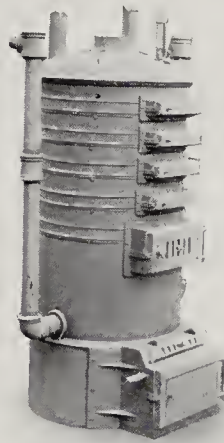
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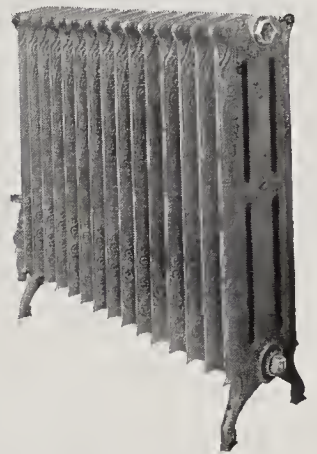
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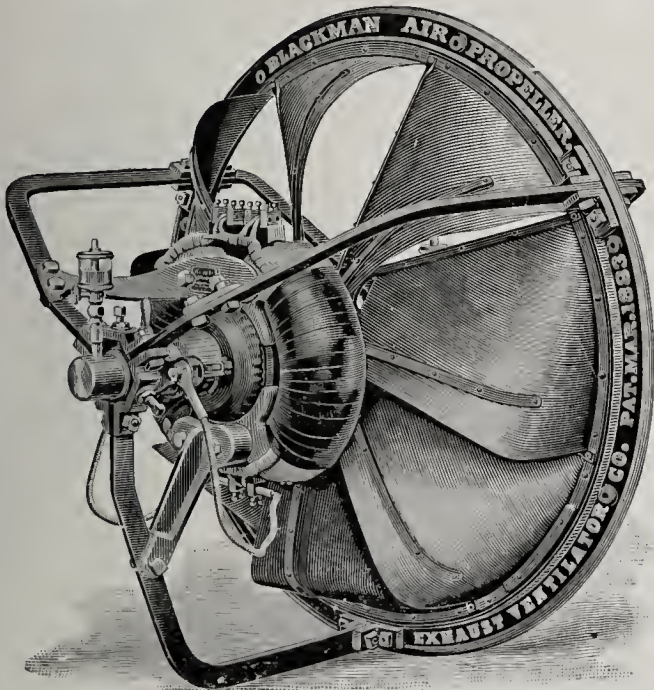
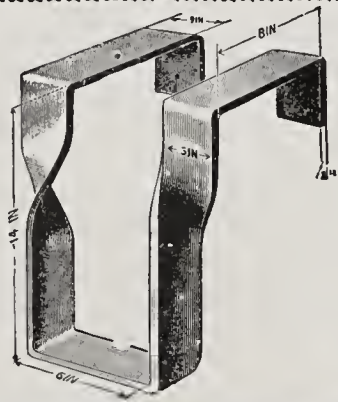
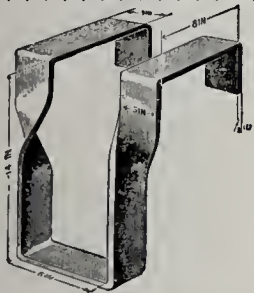
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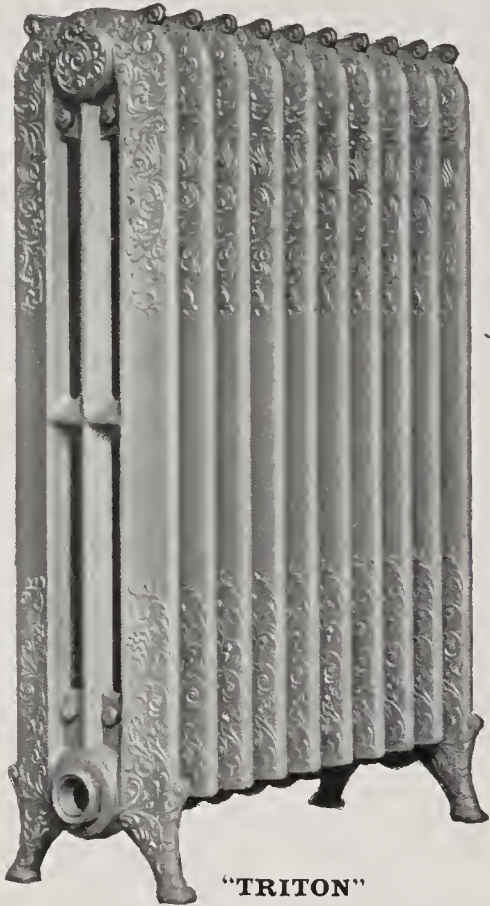
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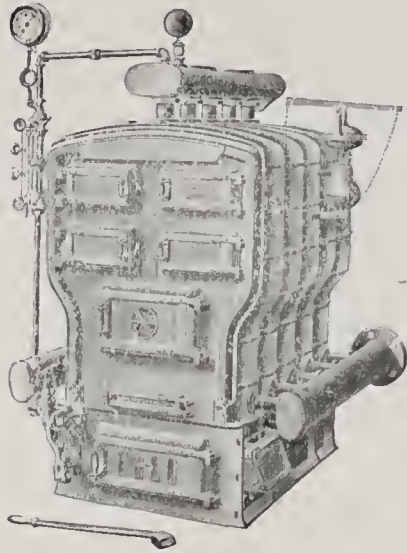
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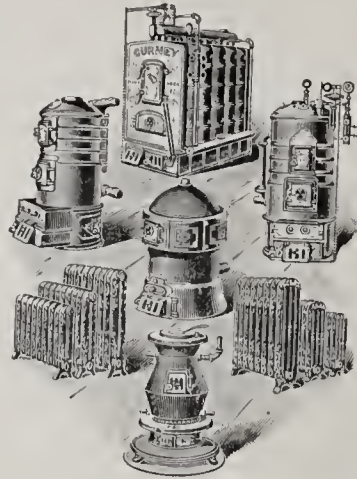
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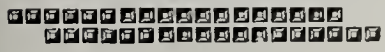
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The beautiful litho-water color booklets sent out by the well known house of Samuel Cabot, of Boston, Mass., are certainly works of the highest art. The specimen recently received by the Western Architect is away ahead of anything that has ever entered this office. It is a booklet that ought to be in the hands of everyone intending to build.

By a unique and clever way in which the leaves are cut, one can present pictures of a house stained in almost every conceivable shade, and, to our idea, they all blend and harmonize in a very pleasing manner. Hard to please, indeed, will be he who fails to find something in the arrangement of colors that are shown in this work, that is not satisfactory to all who are interested.

STEEL CEILINGS AND WALLS, Prevent Destruction By Fire.

The attention of insurance men, owners of buildings and fire fighters throughout the state has recently been called in an almost startlingly convincing way to the efficacy of steel ceilings and side walls as preventatives of disastrous conflagrations.

It seems to be unanimously agreed that the recent fires in the Merchants hotel and in the buildings of the Smith & Farwell Co. and the St. Paul Show Case Company would, beyond doubt, have resulted in disastrous loss of life and money but for the protection afforded by the steel plates which in each case served to confine the fires within narrow limits, making them easy to subdue.

That the intense fire which threatened to consume the Merchants hotel in November was checked with slight damage was a nine days' wonder until it developed that the rooms in which the conflagration raged were protected both as to ceilings and side walls by metal plates.

The Smith & Farwell fire early in December started in a pile of excelsior in the basement. It was what is known as a "quick" fire, and "jumped" almost instantly to the first floor, where it spread rapidly, but stopped short of the upper floors—barred by the steel ceiling of the first floor.

Possibly the most instructive example of all was that afforded by the fire which occurred at night early this month in the large factory of the St. Paul Show Case Company on the West Side. In this case so fierce was the heat that stock and machinery were practically all destroyed; the building was saved from total destruction, in the opinion of those qualified to judge, solely by the metal plates on the ceiling and walls.

A. K. Pruden, president of the St. Paul Roofing, Cornice & Ornament Company, who manufactured the metal plates in all the buildings alluded to, said to the Pioneer Press yesterday: "We could not have asked for a more complete or ex-

haustive demonstration of the merits of our material. We have no doubt, nor have the owners of these buildings any doubt, that their buildings would have suffered total destruction had it not been for the protection afforded by the plates. The plates are invaluable as fire preventers, but they are more than that, they are artistically finished when used in ceilings and present an appearance which compares favorably with any decorated ceiling made. Yes, our trade in plates is growing rapidly, and why shouldn't it? They have every requisite for success and their popularity is only a question of public knowledge of their merits. They make 'old-style' buildings almost absolutely fire-proof as far as danger is concerned, and their cost is a mere trifle compared with their practical utility and the actual cash and trouble saved by their use.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

BURROWES RUSTLESS FLY SCREENS.

At one time a window screen would be almost fully described as "four sticks of wood covered with netting." This description gives but a very limited idea of the improved screen of today, with its substantial, elegantly finished frames, with convenient handles, and covered with fine, evenly woven netting of silken appearance, which neither obstructs the view nor retards ventilation.

The wire screens manufactured by The E. T. Burrowes Co. of Portland, Me., are made to fit and match the house on which they are to be used. Measurements are taken of the windows and outside doorways after the house is built. The screens are attached to the windows by improved devices. One of these is a particularly ingenious device called the "New Century," which consists of a metal shoe at the end of an adjusting screw, whereby the screen may be regulated to slide just right, the screen being made to cover one sash, and may be used either for the upper or lower sash as desired. The screen will slide as easily in wet weather as in dry.

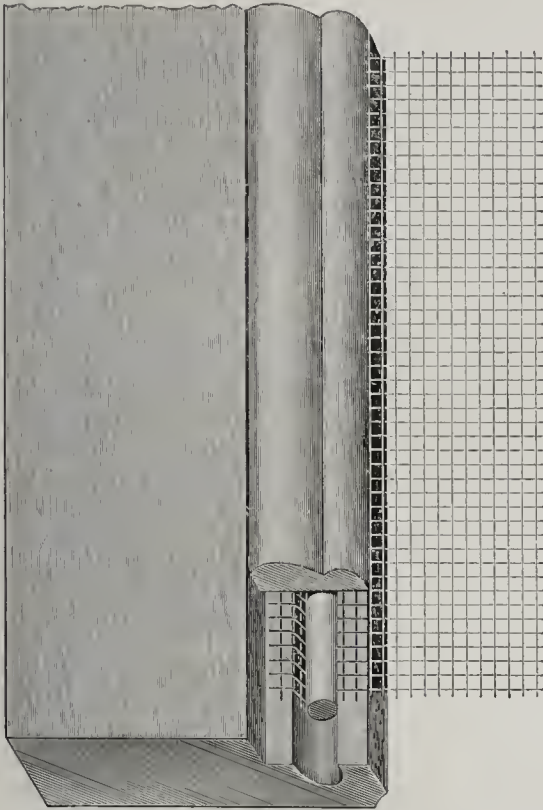


THIS HOUSE IS PROVIDED WITH BURROWES RUSTLESS SCREENS

The Burrowes Rustless Screens are covered with Copbronze Netting, which will not rust and does not require to be painted. They have been using Copbronze more than fifteen years and in some of the most trying exposures, with absolute success—a rustless netting on a rustless frame.

The method of fastening wire cloth on the frame is of the first importance, and is the weakest part of the ordinary screen. Tacks driven ten or twelve inches apart is the usual method of wiring, and the results are soon apparent in the loose, baggy netting easily parted from the frame. When tacks are driven closely, they hold only the few strands of wire which they cover, and these few strands rust out quickest under the tack head. Such products are not profitable to the user.

Some of the advantages of the Burrowes patented method of fastening the wire cloth to the frame are illustrated in this cut.



Every strand of the netting is securely fastened, being crimped in a groove, confined by the lock-strip, and all neatly covered with a molding. The netting will remain taut and secure for years. Screen Doors wired in this way with a heavy grade of wire cloth will prove durable.

The Burrowes Screen Company have been making screens nearly thirty years; they have built the largest screen factory in the world and have recently added another large building, nearly doubling their space. They now have five substantial brick buildings of five or six stories each.

The Burrowes salesmen visit nearly every city and town in the United States, and they have offices in the largest cities. When writing to the Company, it is only necessary to state the number of windows and door-screens required, and they will send catalogues and arrange to give cost. Burrowes pays the freight.

SECURING A NATIONAL REPUTATION.

An Enterprising Concern.

The Menomonie Hydraulic-Press Brick Co., of Menomonie, Wis., with their general offices located at No. 10 N. Third street, Minneapolis, have been widening their scope of territory so rapidly during the past two or three years that they have introduced and sold their Menomonie Hydraulic Pressed and sand mould brick at the four extreme borders of the United States; in fact, at the beginning of the present year they can truthfully state that the reputation of their superior brick has become almost national.

While for years their product has generally been used for all the important and leading building enterprises in the Northwest, it was hardly expected that, for several years to come and with the most enterprising business methods, their business would be extended so far to the east and south as the records prove them to have gone.

It is with their selected red sand mould brick, and their "Colonials," that they have made a particularly aggressive contest for distant markets. Car loads of these brick were last year shipped to Massachusetts, Michigan, Illinois, Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Washington, Manitoba, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

While the quality of these brick are par-excellent in every conceivable way, and invariably please both the architect and the contractor, the fast growing popularity of this excellent product is largely due to the efforts of the hustling, energetic and methodical sales agent, Mr. S. J. Hewson, and his running mate, Mr. F. H. Chapin, both of whom enjoy a wide circle of acquaintances with the building public throughout the whole country.

Like every other concern who manufacture a distinctly meritorious article, this company has many imitators, who endeavor to induce the public to use a material which they assure all comers is "just as good" as the "Hydraulic" Company makes. Architects who desire to use these goods in their buildings should always remember and specify the Menomonie Hydraulic-Press Brick Co.'s brick, and not carelessly overlook the word "Hydraulic," as is sometimes the case, though it is not their intention so to do.

All the various shades and sizes of these bricks may be seen at their Minneapolis office, or a postal card or letter will bring them to your office with samples of the different kinds manufactured.

WORTHY OF HIGHEST PRAISE.

The steel rolling doors and shutters manufactured by the Columbus Steel Rolling Shutter Co., of Columbus, Ohio, whose advertisement appears on page xiii, of the Western Architect, through superior merits alone have attained the highest possible standard of perfection. Very careful and prolonged study, together with vast experience, enables them to place on the market excellent constructions for every purpose where a Steel Rolling Door or Shutter can be applied.

Skilled workmanship, combined with the highest grade of material and ingenious ideas have here produced the best type of manufactured product.

Compact construction, durability and ease of operation combine features hitherto unattainable.

The company will be pleased to mail to readers of this magazine their illustrated catalogue, showing by handsome halftone cuts, buildings supplied with these indispensable goods, including cuts of steel rolling doors for car barns, freight houses, warehouses, elevator openings, etc., upon demand.

A NEW TYPE OF ELEVATOR MACHINERY.

One of the most difficult problems which confronts either an architect, contractor or owner in the construction of a building is the proper distribution of floor space. This is especially true in a structure built for manufacturing purposes, where every inch must be considered. The model factory of today is equipped with such machinery that no space is wasted, and, furthermore, the advancement of electricity as a power has made such conditions possible.

After many years experience in the construction of elevator machinery and a knowledge of what electricity will do as a motive power, the Eaton & Prince Company of Chicago have perfected an electric elevator machine which fills a long-felt want. The illustration accompanying this article shows their new type of direct connected electric apparatus, arranged to be suspended from the ceiling of the building and adjoining the hatchway.

The advantages to be obtained by such an arrangement are many, but chiefly on account of the fact that no valuable floor space is taken up, in addition to securing an apparatus capable of fulfilling duties to suit the most exacting and at a cost that is exceptionally low, both for installation and maintenance. The entire machine, including the motor and controller, is so simple in construction that the old idea of a complex elevator mechanism has been entirely eliminated.

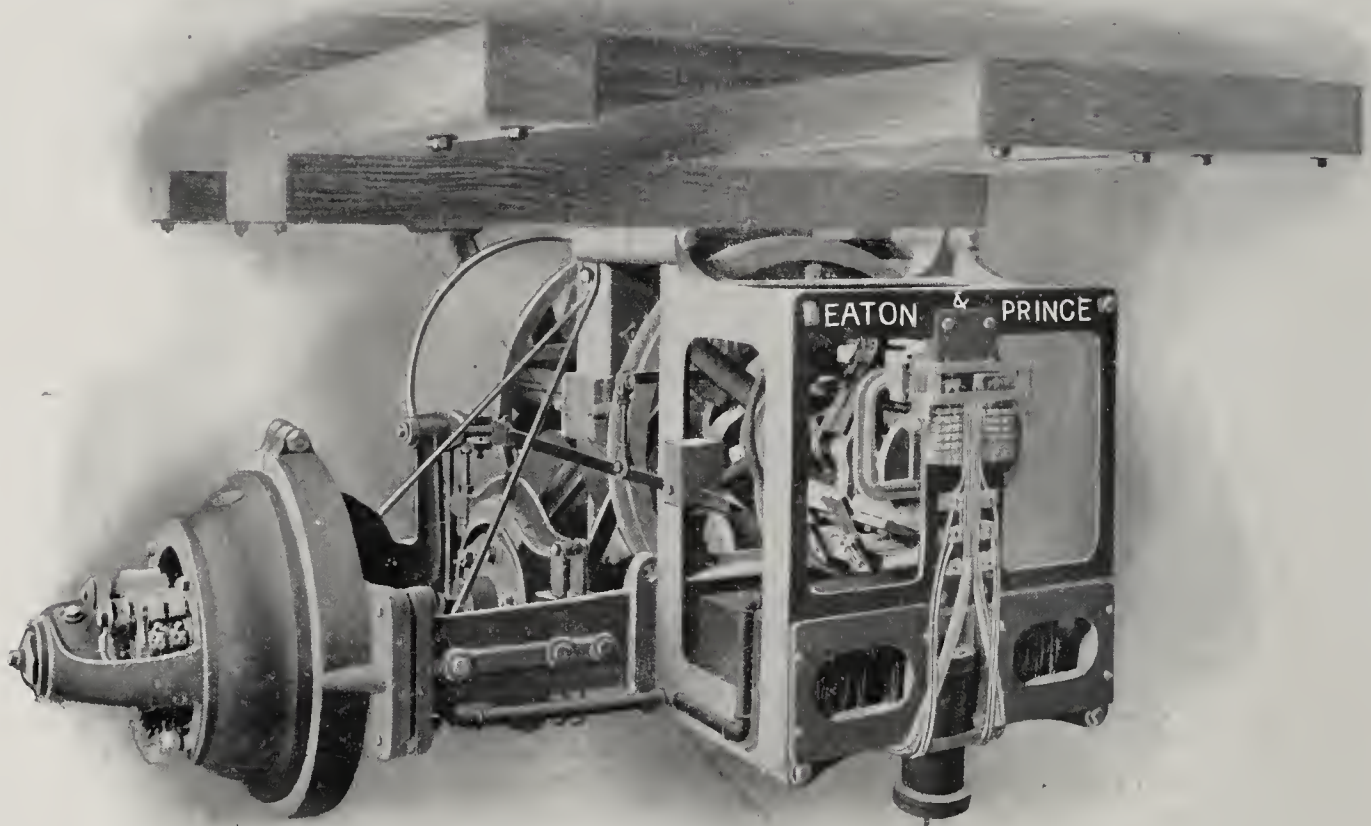
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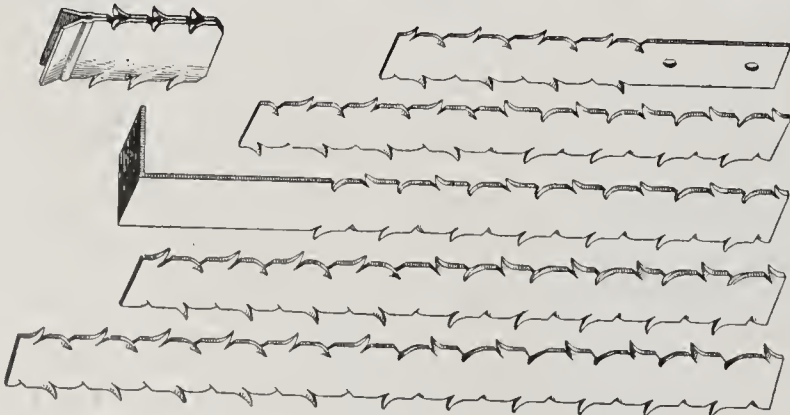
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Eminent scientists have been puzzling over the "emanations" from radium until one of them has come to the verge of indorsing the quest of the old alchemists—the transmutation of metals. He has bottled these emanations—which are made at no cost of weight by the radium—and in time discovered that they convert themselves into helium and gradually disappear.



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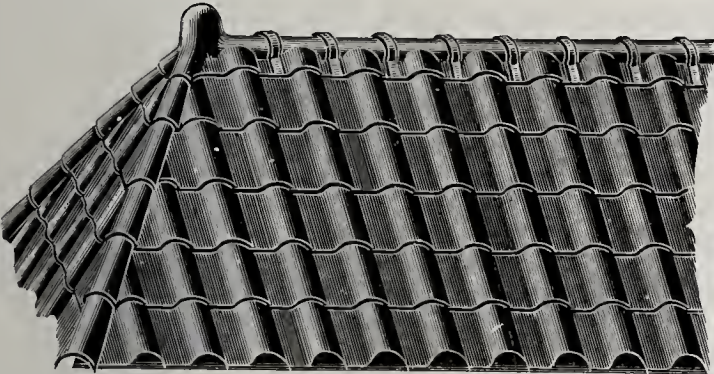
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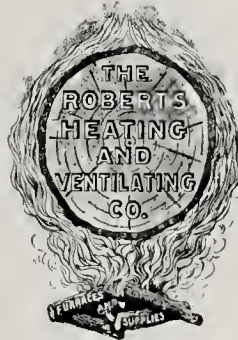
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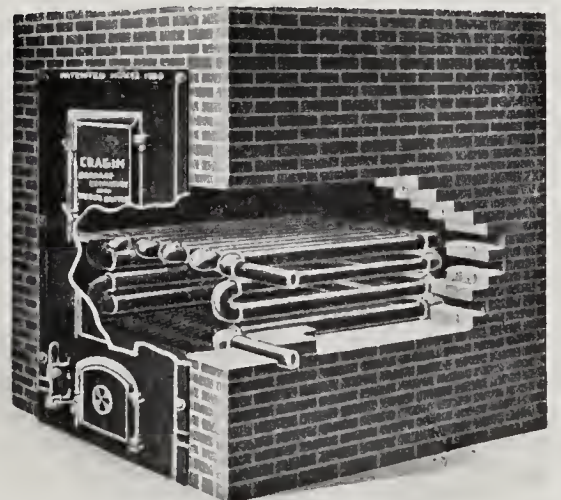
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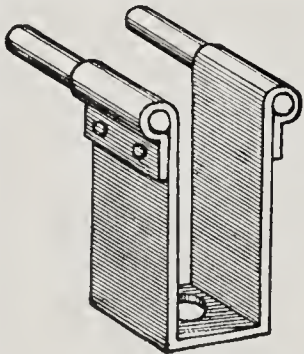
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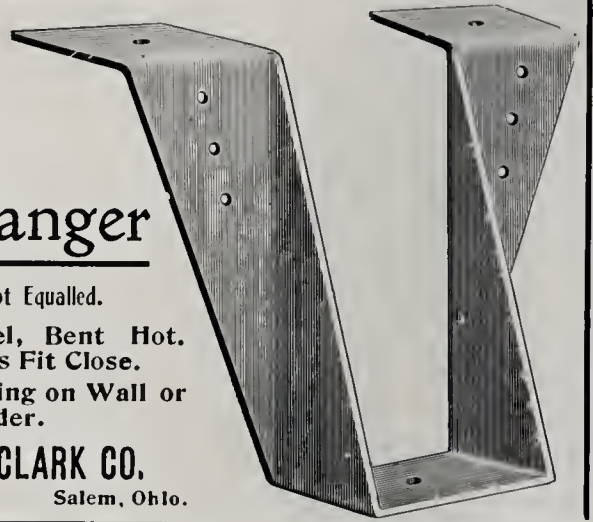
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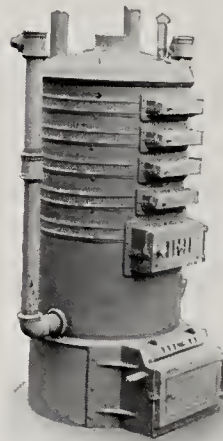


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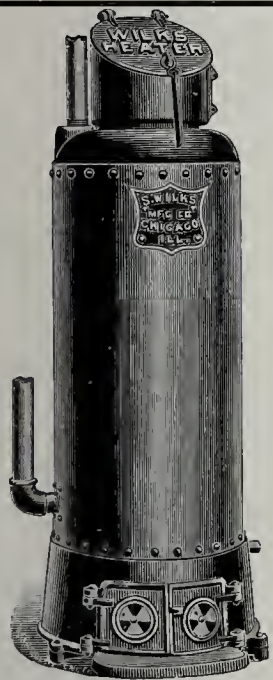
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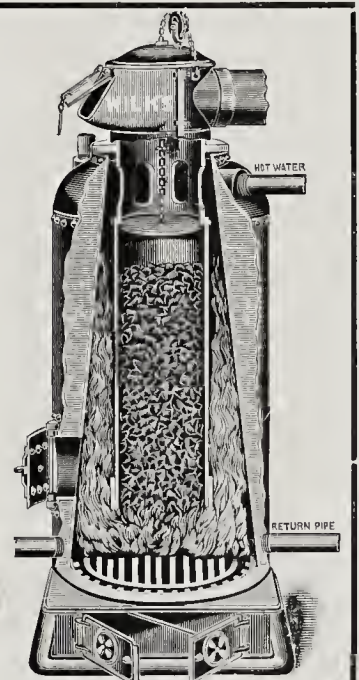
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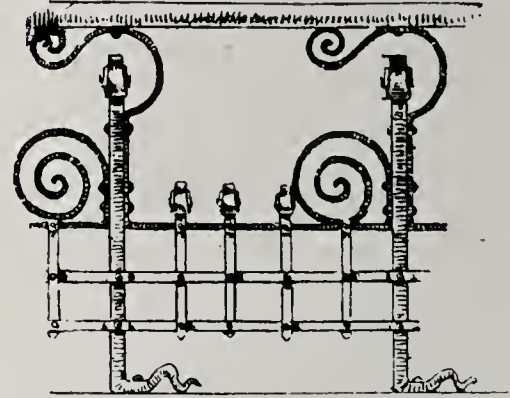
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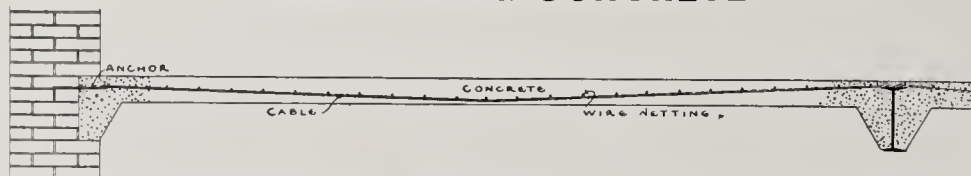
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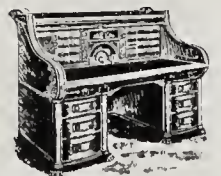
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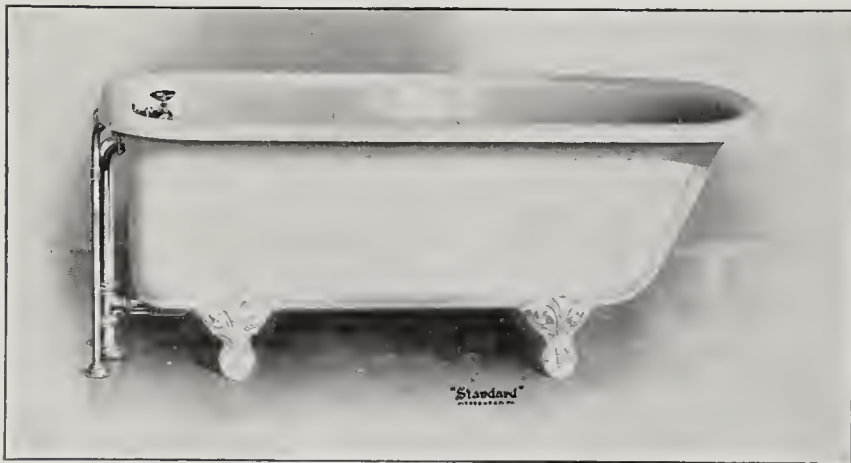


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