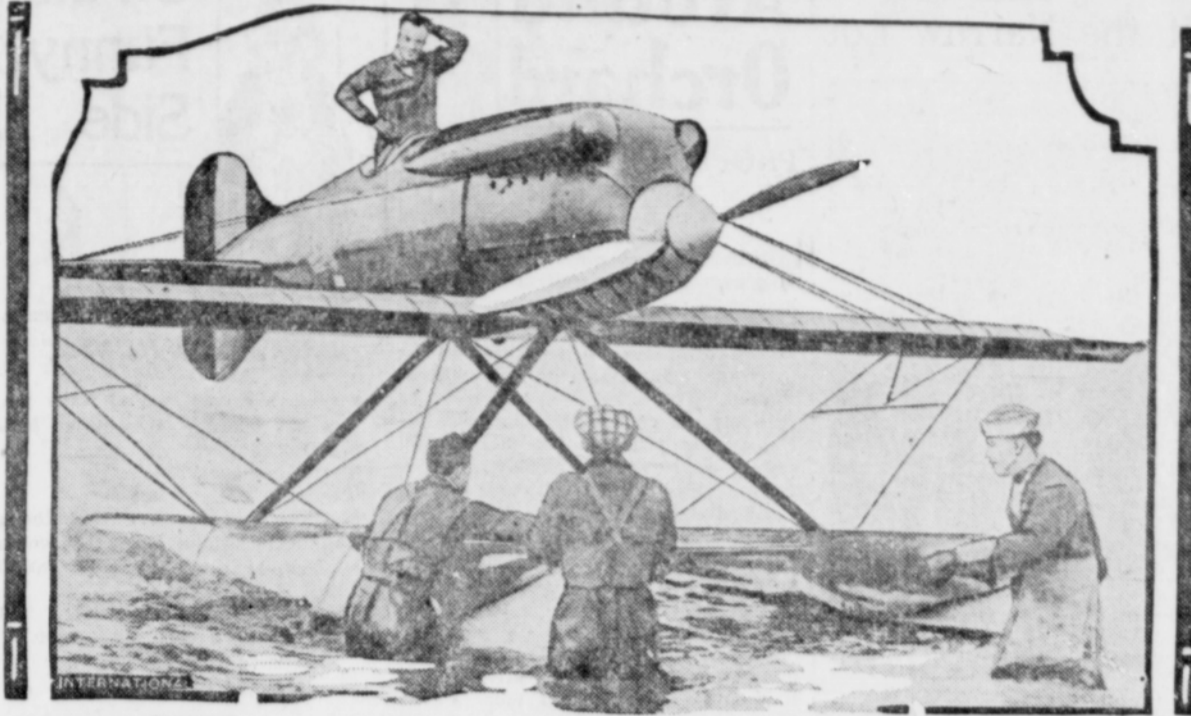


## Winner of the Schneider Cup and His Plane



Major Mario de Bernardi of Italy on board the Macchi seaplane with which he won the Schneider cup race at Norfolk, Va. He set a record of 246.4 miles an hour for the course.

## Try For Wealth in Land-Claims

### Washington Deluged With Demands for Tracts Now Immensely Valuable.

Washington.—No better illustration of the great wealth to be acquired overnight can be found than the deluge of claims filed recently with the general land office of the interior department to the ownership of valuable parcels of real estate located in the business centers of the larger American cities. The basis of these claims is that the property was once a part of the nation's public domain and that a distant relative of the claimant had once settled upon it in the early pioneer days of the republic. Although the title has long since passed to others, the original settler either had never conveyed it or it had been transferred through inheritance, it is claimed.

All of the claims are filled with romance of the early history of the nation. Some go back as far as the time of the old land grants to the Spaniards in California. The drama of others is laid in the days just following the Civil war. Among the many thousand soldiers who fought to preserve the Union in the Civil war was a private named Peter T. Johnson. At the end of the struggle Johnson returned to his home in Illinois. Shortly afterward he received a military land bounty from the Federal government as a reward for his services. Under this military bounty, Johnson had the right to select 160 acres of public land anywhere in the United States, have it surveyed, and then receive title to it.

Johnson's land warrant was the basis of one of the claims recently filed with Commissioner Spry to the ownership of metropolitan property of tremendous value. The land claimed consisted of 160 acres located in the vicinity of Erie, St. Clair and Illinois streets along the shore line of Lake Michigan in the very heart of the city of Chicago. This section is now built up with large warehouses, skyscrapers and other imposing structures on almost priceless ground. The building improvements alone represent millions of dollars of invested capital.

**Basis of a Chicago Claim.**  
In presenting their petition to establish their ownership to this valuable property, the claimants submitted a mass of documentary evidence. They related that in 1809 Peter Johnson squatted or settled on the land, which was then on the outskirts of Chicago, through the use of his military bounty warrant. According to them, he established a bathhouse and operated it for a number of years. Many former prominent citizens of Chicago visited the Johnson bath-

house for a dip in the cool waters of Lake Michigan during the hot summer months of the late sixties and early seventies. Later Johnson is supposed to have disposed of the bathhouse and the land surrounding it, the present claim to ownership being based on this alleged transfer.

An investigation of this claim resulted in the discovery that a military bounty warrant had at one time been issued to Peter T. Johnson. It was found, however, that he did not locate on the site of his bathhouse on the shore of Lake Michigan. Instead he had transferred it, and a tract of public land to cover it was taken up in Florida to satisfy the warrant. A decision was rendered denying the claim. With this rejection the dream of these claimants to sudden acquisition of vast riches went up into thin air.

Another claim more comprehensive in scope and including a much larger area, was recently filed in which title to over 30,000 acres of valuable land was claimed. This real estate, also worth many millions, was located on the outskirts of the city of Los Angeles. It ran from the municipal limits of this California metropolis to the sea harbor of Los Angeles, known as San Pedro. Instead of a single claimant, there were 159 persons who insisted that they had been homesteaders on the tract a number of years ago and were, therefore, entitled to deeds covering the lands they had settled upon.

**Once a Spanish Ranch.**  
Official records of the general land office in this case showed that the 30,000 acres were once a part of an old Spanish ranch known as Rancho de Santiago. It was one of the early land grants made back in the eighteenth century by the Spanish crown to one of his subjects. Later similar grants were made by the government of Mexico to its citizens. When the United States won its war with Mexico in the late Forties of the last century and acquired the territory now comprising the states of California, New Mexico and other contiguous land the treaty of peace between the two nations specifically provided that the United States should recognize and protect these old land grants. As a result ownership of all the old ranches held by Mexicans and Spaniards was not to be distributed.

In the case of these claimants to the 30,000 acres, which were shown to be included in one of these ranches, the general land office was compelled to reject the claims on the ground that the tract was never public land, but private property, and had never been open to homestead entry to citizens of the United States. Thus another air castle vanished before the eyes of its beholders.

The dreams of the white man to become as wealthy as Midas through

some windfall dwindle into insignificance in comparison with those of the red man. Scarcely a single month passes that some Indian or group of Indians do not appear at the interior department to present a claim to ownership of land and demand that it be recognized. Like the white man, the Indian invariably selects real estate of almost inestimable value on which to base his claim.

A typical example occurred when a delegation of Indians representing the Pottawatomie tribe living near Mayetta, Kan., called at the office of the secretary of the interior on a recent occasion. The delegation was composed of two of the oldest Indians now living. One was named Nunnemusuk, who gave his age as one hundred and thirteen years. The other's name was Skineway, and he asserted he was one hundred and ten years old. They had come to Washington to press the claim of their tribe to the ownership of a strip of land on the Lake Michigan waterfront in Chicago, now valued at approximately \$35,000,000.

**Owned by Pottawatomies.**  
According to their statements, the Pottawatomie tribe had occupied the land from its earliest history, the Indians making their living by fishing. Then the federal government removed the entire tribe to Davenport, Iowa, under guard of United States soldiers, where they remained three years. Later the Indians were taken to Council Bluffs, Iowa, the government keeping them there over nine years. They were again moved, this time to Mayetta, Kan., where the tribe has remained ever since, on an allotted reservation under guardianship of the United States.

Under the law executive departments have no authority to negotiate claims of Indian tribes against the United States. This power is vested exclusively in congress. On this account the secretary of the interior was compelled to refer the two old Indians representing their tribe to congress, and they were instructed to present their claim before the Indian affairs committees of the senate and the house.

This claim of the Pottawatomie tribe is modest, however, in comparison with the latest one of the Chippewa Indians of Michigan. On the basis of having originally owned half the entire state of Michigan, this Chippewa tribe is planning to file a claim for property valued at several billion dollars. Their demand consists of compensation from the United States not only for all the islands in Lakes Michigan, Superior, Ontario and St. Clair, but 16 feet of land on each side of every creek, river and stream in the state and 90 feet around the shore of every lake. This will include the whole waterfront of the city of Detroit. The claim of the Chippewa Indians will be filed in the United States court of claims for adjudication under a special act passed by congress. Any award made by the court will not affect the titles of the present holders of these lands in the state of Michigan, as the government will pay the claims in money. If granted in full, they will make every member of the Chippewa tribe a multi-millionaire.

McFerden, of Philadelphia. Heated words were the result, and Stanhope has departed to earn his own living. One son and one daughter remain at the hearthside. If anything happens to either of them, it is freely predicted "Solly Joel will crack."

### Law Bars Repayment of Loans by Official

Boston.—A town treasurer who paid town bills out of his own pocket cannot legally be repaid by the municipality, state authorities ruled. In consequence A. N. Gurney, eighty-year-old retired treasurer of Plainfield, may not recover \$5,100 which he advanced while in office.

Theodore N. Waddell, director of accounts in the state department of corporations and taxation, announced his ruling in the Plainfield case. But he coupled with the announcement the statement that he would not take an active stand against repayment to "the man who made a good fellow of himself and dipped into his own pocket to pay town bills."

## Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of Day and Evening Schools, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)  
(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Lesson for December 19 SAMUEL THE JUST JUDGE

LESSON TEXT—1 Sam. 7:1-17, 12:1-15.  
GOLDEN TEXT—Prepare your heart unto the Lord and serve Him only.  
PRIMARY TOPIC—God Helps the People at Mizpah.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Victory at Mizpah.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—What Samuel Did for His People.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How the Lord Helps.

#### I. Samuel Called the People to Forsake Their Idols (7:1-6).

Under the administration of Eli, the nation rapidly deteriorated. For their sins, God permitted the nation to be bitterly oppressed by the Philistines. Samuel promised them deliverance on the condition of repentance.

#### II. Samuel Prayed for the People (7:7-14).

Moved by fear of the Philistines the people besought Samuel to cry unto God for them. In response to his prayer God miraculously delivered them from the Philistines.

#### III. Samuel Judging Israel (7:15-17).

Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah and Ramah were his circuit, to each of which he made annual visits. These centers were for the accommodation of the people.

#### IV. Samuel's Farewell Address (12:1-25).

When Saul, the new king, was crowned, Samuel turned over to him his authority, and gracefully retired.

#### 1. Samuel's challenge to the people (vv. 1-5).

(1) A reminder of the way the king had been given (v. 1).

He showed that they were directly responsible for the change in government. Though keenly feeling the reflection upon himself, and their ingratitude to God in their demand for a king, he had not resisted their wish.

(2) Review of his own administration (vv. 2, 3).

a. Walk from childhood (v. 2). Samuel's was a remarkable life; from childhood to old age he had lived an upright and pure life.

b. Career as judge and ruler (v. 3). He boldly challenged them to show where and how he had ever oppressed anyone.

(3) The vote of confidence by the people (vv. 4, 5).

It was Samuel's right as he laid down the reins of government to have his record vindicated and to have his integrity established beyond a doubt, so that no evil-minded man should ever be able to cast reproach upon him.

#### 2. Samuel reviews God's dealing from the time of Moses (vv. 6-15).

He reasoned with them concerning the good hand of the Lord upon them from the time of Moses. Though they with ingratitude turned from the Lord and demanded a king like the other nations, He had acceded to their request and set a king over them.

(1) National prosperity conditioned by obedience (v. 14).

Though they had displeased God in choosing a king, if they would fear the Lord and render obedience, national prosperity would still be given.

(2) Disobedience to God meant the nation's ruin (v. 15).

It is folly to ask God's blessing upon a nation while it is living in rebellion against Him.

#### 3. Samuel's own vindication (vv. 16-19).

This was such a critical hour in the history of the nation that Samuel sought to indelibly impress its meaning on their hearts. This he did by means of the thunder and rain out of season. Harvest time was not the season for thunder and rain, so when it came at the call of Samuel, the people were affrighted. They saw it as an example of God's mighty power, which if directed against them, would destroy them in an instant.

#### 4. Samuel's gracious response (vv. 20-25).

(1) "Fear not—serve the Lord with all your heart" (vv. 20-22).

Samuel did not minimize their sin but assured them that if they would serve the Lord wholeheartedly He would not forsake them. The ground of their hope was the faithfulness of God in keeping His covenant.

(2) "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (v. 23).

The people had rejected Samuel, yet he had such magnanimity of soul that he did not allow their ingratitude to cause his intercession for them to cease. He assured them that in spite of their sin their concern should be to fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly.

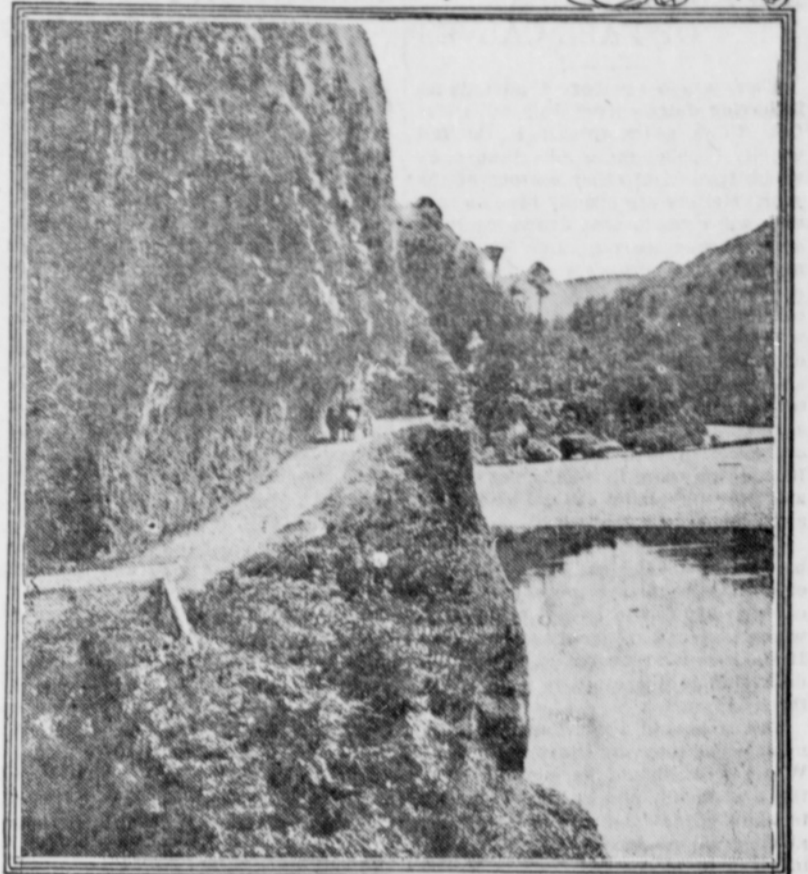
#### Pleasure

The pastor says: To expect adequate refreshment for the human spirit from mere pleasure is like gathering dewdrops and blowing upon them to keep them moist.—John Andrew Holmes.

#### Repentance

Repentance is a hearty sorrow for our past misdeeds, and a sincere resolution and endeavor, to the utmost of our power to conform our actions to the law of God.

## NEW ZEALAND CITIES



A Road in New Zealand.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

NEW ZEALAND, more than 6,000 miles from America, comes spiritually closer as a result of a recent speech of its premier in London. He declared that to New Zealanders the American Revolution seems a beneficent thing from which New Zealand's present freedom flowed.

One needs but to see the two principal cities of the far-away island commonwealth to realize that America and New Zealand have very much in common.

"As hilly as San Francisco or Rio de Janeiro," "as land-locked as Seattle," "as windy as Chicago" are phrases used by travelers to describe Wellington. They will help Americans to construct a picture of the capital city of New Zealand.

Wellington has the best situation geographically of all New Zealand cities for its harbor opens on Cook Strait, the natural water roadway that splits New Zealand's land roughly into two parts. Situated on the southern tip of North Island, the city is almost exactly at the geographical center of the dominion, and in a position from which steamers can reach the ports of both islands by the shortest voyages. Because of this strategic central situation Wellington took from Auckland in 1864 the capital of the dominion.

Although Wellington undoubtedly has the best location with regard to New Zealand, it has not yet overcome Auckland's advantageous position for the South sea trade and the fact that both the big New Zealand ports can be reached with about equal ease from Sydney. Wellington's population is short of 120,000, but it is growing with great rapidity and may yet overtake that of its larger sister city to the north.

As is the case with Sydney, Auckland, Hobart and Melbourne, Wellington owes much of its prosperity to its excellent harbor. Shipping enters through a relatively narrow bottle neck to find a great, broad lakelike body of water opening out beyond.

#### Spreading Over the Hills.

The city of Wellington lies on the southwestern side of the harbor. Only a narrow strip along the coast is level and a considerable part of this has been reclaimed by filling in a part of the harbor. On this level plot near the water is the business section of the city and the government buildings.

Wellington obviously has been cramped by its hills; but just as obviously it has struck out to conquer them. Few cities have had to go in so deeply for engineering enterprises in order to expand. The hills rise steeply to heights of 700 feet and more. For years the city builders of Wellington have been carving and terracing their slopes, filling in gullies, tearing away ridges and building innumerable retaining walls and bridges and the work still goes on. Streets outside the level plot wind snakily along slopes, working ever higher and higher. As in Rio de Janeiro one man's house looks down upon the roof of his neighbor's below, and in turn is looked down upon by his neighbor's above. On some of the hills houses have been built all the way to the crest, and each year sees on other hills a revision upward of the "high house mark." Special cable and electric tram lines run up several of the hills.

The status of Wellington as capital of New Zealand has brought a considerable group of public buildings to the city. At first these buildings were of wood due to an earthquake scare near the middle of the Nineteenth century. The old government building is one of the largest wooden structures ever built. In recent years brick, stone and concrete have been used to a greater extent in erecting large structures. The new buildings which house parliament and the town hall are monumental buildings of marble. The city of Wellington is deeply in

business for its citizens. It owns its water works, electric power and light plant, ice factory, street railway lines, cemeteries, public baths, slaughter houses, and has a municipal monopoly for the distribution of milk.

#### Auckland "Lonely" but Lively.

Auckland, which was called "Last, loneliest, loveliest," by Kipling, may still seem lonely to those who never visit it; but with its 160,000 inhabitants and all the trappings of a modern American or English city it has interests and activities of its own which make the average Aucklander give scant thought to his geographic isolation.

There are other factors that work to banish thoughts of loneliness from the minds of Aucklanders. The port has become the busy center of trade with the South sea islands; and the ships of some of the chief Pacific steamer lines from San Francisco and Vancouver put in at Auckland on their voyages to and from Sydney. As a result of this service Auckland theaters and concert halls are supplied with the theatrical talent and musical artists who are interesting the rest of the world.

Auckland gives another example of the lavish way in which nature has dealt out wonderful harbors to Australasia. The main Auckland harbor, opening to the east—Waitemata harbor—furnishes about six square miles of deep, land-locked water; and this opens upon Hauraki gulf with an area of hundreds of square miles. A ship must steam 30 or 40 miles north from Auckland before it meets the swell of the Pacific.

In addition Auckland has a back-door harbor in reserve. The city is built on a hilly isthmus only six miles wide, with its main harbor on the east, and an almost equally commodious protected body of water, Manukan harbor, on the west. The sites of the city is the narrowest point of North Island, one of the two large land masses of New Zealand; but to transfer ships from one harbor to the other—six miles apart—would necessitate a trip of more than 400 miles. At present Auckland's back-door harbor is used only for coasting steamers along the western side of the island.

Auckland's business section lies along the water front on the south side of the harbor, and along Queen street, whose well-paved, level surface hides a creek bed of early days. Substantial business blocks, some six and so on stories high, give the streets an aspect of an American city of a decade or so ago.

#### Old Volcanic Cones.

The residence sections of Auckland ramble up the slopes of hills that rise a short distance from the harbor. The entire isthmus is covered with old volcanic cones of various sizes, the highest, Mt. Eden, reaching an altitude of 640 feet. This eminence is a favorite objective for sightseers, dividing popularity with One Tree Hill, which is included in a magnificent 300-acre park. From either height one gets a magnificent view of slopes covered with cottages and gardens, the business section, the busy water front, the great harbor dotted with forest-covered isles, and beyond the inner water gate to the Pacific. To the west one may see entirely across the island and make out the blue waters of the sea that stretches off to Australia.

Auckland is almost the exact antipodal point of Gibraltar, and has a climate not unlike that of Sunny Spain at its best. The temperature seldom rises higher than 82 degrees Fahrenheit in summer (December, January and February) or falls much below 40 degrees Fahrenheit in winter (June, July and August). The maximum temperature in Auckland in August is about 60 degrees. Palms grow in the parks beside the trees common to more northern climes. Grass remains green the year round, and Aucklanders carry on their outdoor life through winter and summer alike.

## HOME OF LONDON MILLIONAIRE IS MADE UNHAPPY BY CUPID

Daughter Living in Poverty as Result of Unhappy Marriage—Two Sons Sent from Home.

London.—Winning world fame with its riches and by occupying a place high in the foreign social and sport world, the house of Solomon Joel has been wrecked by an equally famous figure known as Dan Cupid. For Joel's great wealth sent two sons from his home, one to die in Egypt's desert heat, and his favorite daughter is now in poverty following an unfortunate marriage.

Joel is known as the one big South African mine owner. He owns diamond mines, gold mines, platinum mines, street railways, South African office buildings, collieries, steamship lines, and cattle ranches. His worldly possessions gave his family everything they could wish for—except happiness. The first shock came when Joel was

told by Arthur Walter, young London stockbroker, that he had married Doris Joel seven months previously, despite Joel's opposition when permission was asked at that time. The angry father told the daughter, once his favorite, never to appear in his sight again. The young lovers lived happily for a time until their baby died. Then she won a divorce on misconduct grounds. Without funds, she wanders about England with friends who recently saved her from prison by paying her taxes.

Then came the second grim blow. Solly Joel left his home and fled to Egypt, where he met Lord Carnarvon and filmed the historic opening of King "Tut's" tomb. Soon afterward Solly died.

And now Stanhope Joel has followed his sister, Doris, into arousing the ire of his parents. Without their consent he has married Miss Gladys