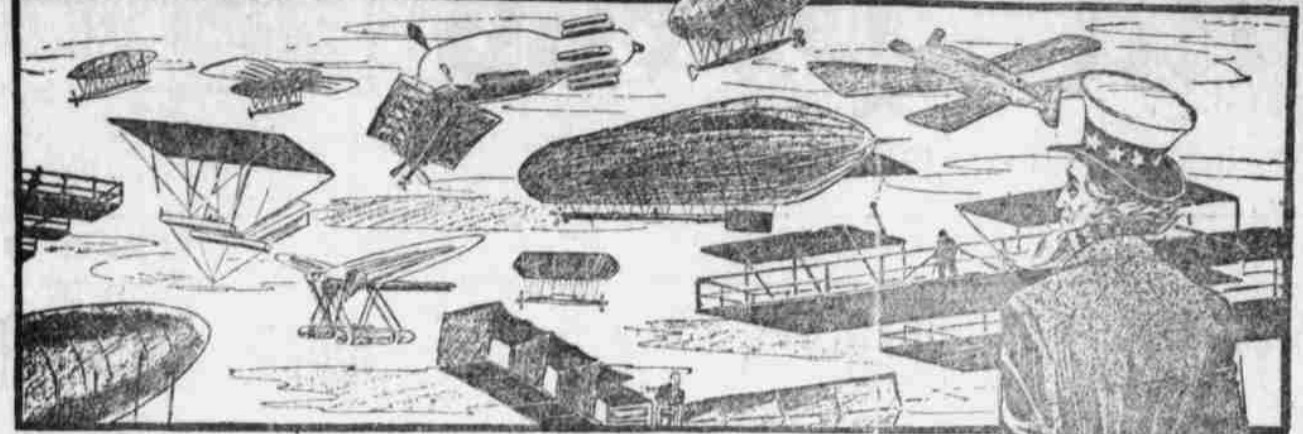


WHEN UNCLE SAM SENDS HIS AIRSHIP FLEET ON A CRUISE



The United States government is going into the airship and balloon business on an extensive scale in the near future. The War Department has asked permission of Congress to spend \$1,000,000 or so for coast defense airships.

The most exacting requirement issued in the proposal by the War Department is that before acceptance a trial endurance flight will be required of at least one hour, during which time the flying machine must remain continuously in the air without landing.

Right here is where the inventors of flying machines "fell down" with the French government not long ago. The inventors reside in Dayton, Ohio, and the French representatives said that they would buy the machine if the inventors would operate it successfully, making a flight of a certain number of miles and remaining in the air a certain length of time.

To make a long story short, the French did not buy the machine and nobody else has bought it thus far.

A number of inventors pretend that they have certain secrets about their machines which the other fellows do not know and which must not be revealed. But Uncle Sam says to all such in his specifications that secrets cut no figure. He must have the goods. He says that the bidders must furnish complete scale drawings of their device and they are notified that it is desirable that the machine shall be capable of being easily and quickly taken apart and reassembled and be transportable in an ordinary wagon.

To protect the government against irresponsible and visionary persons who set up claims to be inventors of practical flying machines, bidders will be required to furnish with their proposals a certified check to the amount of 10 per cent of the price of the machine.

When Captain Charles DeForest Chandler of the signal service was visiting his parents in Cleveland a short time ago he told a newspaper man about his trip from St. Louis to the Chesapeake bay in a balloon, the contest being planned by the Aero Club of St. Louis. Incidentally he mentioned the determination of the United States signal service officials to increase the airship facilities of the service. He said:

"There is no longer any question about the airship being the best means of obtaining information about an enemy or foreign foe. For instance, we can examine the situation of great areas of land. Now, when a general goes into battle he must know exactly how the land lies. We know, of course, by maps. But it is impossible for one man to obtain an accurate idea of the strength of an enemy and how the land lies as far as his opponent is concerned except by getting what is called a bird's eye view. That is the whole secret of the worth of the airship—to get the bird's eye view. Balloons for this purpose are out of the question because of the fact that they cannot be controlled except as to altitude. Motors are now being hung under them so that they can be driven about with certainty and dispatch.

"It is not necessary to go into the question of operation with any one here in this country. There are no secrets here or anywhere. It is only the question of working out the details in the problem in the best way, and I am sure that we in America can do this better than any one else."

Some people imagine that the airship will be used for the purpose of carrying destructive bombs which could be dropped from overhead on to an enemy in camp. This mode of warfare is pro-



hibited by the peace conference held at The Hague. This compact still holds for five years. No balloon or airship is to carry dynamite or other explosive bombs.

Rifles have been invented with such high power that if a balloon is sighted over a camp or fortification it can be hit at the distance of several miles. The gas bag or other vital apparatus could be riddled with well-directed shells. Of course, war is a game in which one invention is pitted against another.

The cost of these airships, say for instance, like the one operated by Santos-Dumont, is about \$60,000. Then each one must have a shed and gas plant where it is to be located, making in all \$100,000 for each machine. Ten of these for coast defense would cost \$1,000,000.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

THE GREATEST WEDDING.

Over Twenty Thousand Persons Were Married in One Ceremony. The biggest wedding ever known to history was when Alexander the Great and over 10,000 of his soldiers took part in a wedding in the court of Darius, king of Persia, after the latter's conquest by Alexander. Twenty thousand two hundred and two persons were made husbands and wives in one ceremony.

The facts are these: After conquering King Darius, Alexander determined to wed Statira, daughter of the conquered king, and issued a decree that on that occasion 100 of his chief officers should marry 100 women from the noblest Persian and Median families. He further stipulated that 10,000 of his Greek soldiers should take to wife 10,000 Asiatic women.

For this purpose a vast pavilion was erected, the pillars being sixty feet high. One hundred gorgeous chambers adjoined this for the 100 noble bridegrooms, while for the 10,000 soldiers an outer court was inclosed. Outside of this tables were spread for the multitude.

Each pair had seats and ranged themselves in a semi-circle round the royal throne. As it would have taken several weeks for the few priests to have married this vast number of couples had the ceremony been performed in the ordinary way, Alexander invented a simple way out of the difficulty. He gave his hand to Statira and kissed her, and all the remaining bridegrooms did the same to the women beside them, and thus ended the ceremony that united the greatest number of people at one time ever known.

Then occurred a five days' festival, which for grandeur and magnificence never has since been equaled.

Legal Information

The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in *Hillhouse v. United States*, 152 Federal Reporter, 163, holds that automobiles come within the classification of "household effects," under the tariff act of July 24, 1897. This decision is largely based on the case of *Arthur v. Morgan*, 112 U. S. 495, 5 Supreme Court Reporter, 241, 28 Lawyers' Edition, 825, wherein the United States Supreme Court held that carriages were properly classified as "household effects."

If the conductor of a street car, while engaged in the prosecution and within the scope of his business in collecting fares, falls and refuses to give a passenger correct change, and upon request therefor draws a pistol and fires at the passenger, but the ball misses the passenger and strikes a woman passing on the public street through which the car is running, causing her death, the street car company is liable, according to the decision of the Georgia Supreme Court in *Savannah Electric Company v. Wheeler*, 58 Southern Reporter, 38.

A person may be guilty of smuggling even before he has passed the custom lines on the docks of an incoming steamer, according to the decision of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in *United States v. 218½ Carats Loose Emeralds*, 153 Federal Reporter, 643. When the proper customs officer examines an incoming passenger's baggage, and questions him whether he has any personal property which he has not declared, such passenger is obliged to state the truth, and when the examination is finished, and the passenger still has precious stones in his possession without having admitted it, the act of smuggling is complete.

A number of southeastern railroads gave notice of an increase of rates on lumber in 1903. Before the rate became effective, a bill was filed in the United States Circuit Court to restrain the establishment of the new rate as being unreasonable. A temporary injunction was granted, but later dissolved, on the condition that the reasonableness of the rate should be passed upon by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The commission found the rates to be unreasonable. A supplemental bill was then filed to obtain restitution of the excess of rates charged in accordance with a prior stipulation that, if complainants prevail, a decree was so rendered and affirmed by the Circuit Court of Appeals. Upon appeal to the Supreme Court it was again affirmed. *Railway Co. v. Tift*, 27 Supreme Court Reporter, 709, 206 U. S. 428.

A Domestic Breakdown. A well-known lord discovered a thief in his London house. Aided by the butler, he secured the man and then rang the bell. A servant appeared, whom the peer requested to "go into the kitchen and bring up a policeman or two." The domestic returned and said there were no policemen on the premises. "What!" exclaimed his master in incredulous tones. "Do you mean to tell me that with a cook, two scullery maids, a kitchen maid and three housemaids in my employ there is no policeman in the kitchen? It is indeed a miracle, and our prisoner shall reap the benefit. Turner, let the man go instantly!"—*London Standard*.

There should be some title placed before a man's name to show that he is married. His face never tells whether he is or not. A woman is labeled with "Mrs." Why should not a man be?

AGRICULTURAL



Cultivation of Potatoes.

Cultivation should commence just as soon as the young plants begin to appear above the ground. The field may be gone over with a light harrow, or, better still, with a weeder. This is a cheap method of cultivation, since a wide space is covered. It is also effective in breaking up any crust that may have formed, in destroying small weeds and leveling ridges left in planting.

As soon as the rows can be seen the cultivator should be used. If the ground has become packed the first cultivation may be deep and close to the plants. Subsequent cultivation should be frequent. The conservation of moisture by frequent tillage cannot be too strongly enforced. The old notion that tillage must cease as soon as the blossom appears is wrong. It should be continued as late in the season as the vines will permit. As the tops begin to spread out and cover the space between the rows they partially shade the soil and thus lessen the loss of moisture by evaporation.

Grafting Methods.

Apple trees are usually propagated in the nursery either by budding or root grafting two-year-old seedlings. Larger seedlings may be taken up and the roots cut into a great number of sections five or six inches long. Upon these the scions of the desired varieties should be grafted by means of the whip and tongue method of grafting, as shown in the accompanying illustrations. This grafting does not require any wax, the parts being simply held together by binding with twine or raffia. Root grafting of this kind is usually done during the winter time, and the grafts stored in moist sand or soil until the ground is fit for planting them outside in the spring. They should then be planted in nursery rows, and in two or three years should make trees large enough to transplant to permanent positions.

Top grafting is usually done by the cleft method, as shown in the illustrations. In this method the scions are cut wedge-shaped and fitted firmly into the cleft made in the stock, which is usually cut off squarely where the branches are from one to two inches in diameter, two scions being placed in each stock. In this, as in all methods of grafting, great care must be taken to get the cambium layer, or inner bark, of the stock and scion in contact in at least one side, for it is at this point that union takes place, and any



SAMPLES OF TOP GRAFTING.

failure to connect the cambium layers of stock and scion is sure to result in failure of the scions. In top grafting, the wounded surfaces should be covered with grafting wax. A good formula for this is: Four parts of resin, two of beeswax and one of tallow, by weight, melted together. Top grafting should be done early in the spring, before growth commences.

In all this propagation work great care should be taken to select scions from trees bearing the very best type of the varieties intended for propagation. Nurserymen, as a rule, are not careful enough in this respect and take scions from any trees so long as it is of the desired variety.—H. L. H.

About Cow Testing.

Prof. Fraser of the Illinois Experiment Station says that a complete knowledge and mastery of the dairy business cannot be secured without testing each cow. Many farmers and dairymen think this testing of the cows is too much trouble, and do not want to "fuss" around with it, but if they considered the profits to be realized from a herd of really good cows as compared with one of poor cows, or even a mixed herd, they would soon see that it really pays to "fuss" around with the scales and Babcock test. Where one cow will give good returns for her feed and care there may be another in the stall next to her that is not paying her board, but is eating up the profits from the paying cow. But how is the owner to know this if he does not test them? A pair of scales and a tester do not cost much, but they pay big profits on the investment.

Agricultural Extension.

One method employed by the State agricultural colleges of reaching the farm boys and girls of the country is through departments of agricultural extension. Such departments have been established at most of the older colleges and they are doing a vast amount of good. The extension department of Ohio is one worthy of the attention of the agricultural world, for through its monthly bulletins thousands of children and teachers in the State have been interested in farm education who would otherwise have never heard of the college and what it is doing.

Vaccination of Hogs.

Secretary Wilson states in his annual report that blood serum from hogs which have been proved to be immune to hog cholera has been used in vaccinating other hogs, which are thus protected from cholera for about three weeks, as shown by experiments. If blood from diseased hogs, however, is injected with the serum the protection is extended to about three and a half months.

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The cultivator should be set as narrow as the space between and keep it covered with a loose mulch. Experience and experiments favor nearly level cultivation. Excessive hilling intensifies the injurious effects of dry weather. The best cultivator is one having a number of small teeth, so that it will leave the soil fine and comparatively level.

Pitch Fork Attachments.

In gathering up freshly cut grass or hay, etc., with a pitchfork a small quantity adheres to the prongs of the fork each time a pile is lifted. In a short while the fork becomes clogged and useless, it being necessary to remove each particle by hand. In order that this cleaning may be done almost automatically, a Wisconsin man has designed the attachment for pitchforks shown here. A transverse clearer bar is arranged below the lines of the fork, guides on each end of the bar partly encircling the end prongs, permitting the bar to slide freely on the prongs. Pivoted on the handle of the fork is a bar which connects with other bars extending to the cleaning bar and to a sleeve which slides on the handle. By moving the sleeve on the handle the cleaning bar slides over the prongs of the fork, removing anything adhering to them.



CLEANS OFF HAY.

Dressing Chickens for Market. Have them in proper flesh and keep them from feed at least twenty-four hours before killing. Cut the throat so they will bleed properly, leaving the head on. Scald in water that is not too hot, in order to have the skin nice and smooth when dressed. A large kettle with plenty of water is much better than a boiler or small kettle. Draw entrails from a small aperture, crop end of wing bone over base of wing bone in front and back. When they have become perfectly cold by hanging by the feet, cut the head off smoothly close to the ears, nearly, and the skin will remain in place. This is better than cutting the head off with hatchet or ax at killing, and tying skin over end of neck.

Poultry Tips.

Eggs need to be turned in the incubator. Don't neglect it. Make the nests handy not only to clean out but to gather the eggs from. The wet grass is no place for the young chicks to run unless they are expected to die of cramps. Fowls like green food as well as any other class of stock. They need it in their business, so it is good policy to keep them supplied. A bushel of grain a year for each laying hen is said to be the proper amount to count on in estimating the cost of keeping poultry.

Pig Pen Pointers.

When fed dry, shelled corn is more economical than cornmeal to feed to fattening hogs. The swine breeder is responsible not only for the conditions he provides but for those he permits. The boy and the pig, generally speaking, are the important factors on the American stock farm. Desirable breeding qualities in a herd are fixed by a long line of careful selection and breeding. When an all-corn ration is fed to growing pigs the muscles of the body do not develop to their normal size. To secure the best results care should be taken to feed the hogs according to age, conditions and time of marketing. In selecting breeding stock it is an item to know they are from a family noted for fertility, as this is an inherited quality.

In the Sheep Fold.

But don't neglect the old sheep. Feed them at the right time and in the right place. There is that sheep with hair in place of wool. Get her out of the flock. Wool is what we are after, not hair.

The Burglar and the Belle

The Burglar was at the sideboard when the door opened and a remarkably beautiful girl stood on the threshold, facing him.

With one small satin shoe thrust delicately forward and one hand still resting on the knob of the door, which she held open, her lips parted in an inarticulate gasp of surprise, and her great blue eyes wide open in sheer amazement, she completely justified at that instant her claim to be considered one of the prettiest debutantes of the last London season.

The Burglar at the very first glance conceded it. The slight shade of annoyance that crossed his features passed instantly, as he turned toward her with a little bow.

"Who are you?" demanded the girl, her eyes still riveted on his face, as though in a kind of fascination, which, nevertheless, seemed singularly free from any element of terror. "Who are you?" she repeated, in a rather more peremptory voice.

"Oh, don't you know?" he replied, with an apologetic gesture. "I'm a burglar."

She regarded him for a moment with the dawn of an appreciative smile hovering round the corners of her beautiful little mouth.

"Mr. Tolroy," she said sweetly, "I think you would look ever so much nicer if you took off that stupid black mask."

The Burglar gave a little resigned gesture; then carefully removed the bit of black cardboard from his forehead.

"To think that you should have recognized me!" he murmured, as he placed it on the table beside him.

"Recognized you?" She uttered a low, musical laugh. "I recognized you the moment I shut the door. Do you think I should have come into the room and talked like this to a burglar I didn't know?"

"It certainly would not have been strictly proper," he admitted; "but I imagined my disguise to be quite perfect."

He looked at her reproachfully. "Surely you don't think I am such an intolerable idiot as to break into a person's house at night and run the fearful risk of being shot by Sir Thomas just for fun, do you? I was dining to-night with Charlie Craster and Lord Penhurst, and they bet me a pony that I wouldn't burgle Sir Thomas' house and fetch away a silver teapot, or something of the kind—to prove I had really got in, you know; and I took the bet, and they are waiting round at Craster's chambers for me now."

"But"—she knitted her brows in perplexity—"what do you want a pony for, Mr. Tolroy? You've got one horse already, haven't you?"

"A pony," he explained, glancing at

her severely, "is not an animal—I mean, not always an animal," he corrected himself. "In this case it is a sum of £50, which I should regret extremely having to hand over to Penhurst and Craster."

"I think I should, too," she remarked pensively. "Both Mr. Craster and Lord Penhurst are quite rich enough as it is, whilst you—!" She paused and bit her lip.

"Oh," said the Burglar, "don't mind finishing the sentence, please. I'm not rich. I'm only a younger son, and—to be quite candid with you—I have been seriously thinking of taking up some profession lately. Burglary struck me as a not unprofitable one."

"You are not fitted to be a burglar," she said decisively. "You must choose another profession, in which you are less likely to be shot by Sir Thomas!"

The Burglar sighed heavily. "What does it matter, after all, if I am shot?" he muttered.

"It matters a good deal," she exclaimed with energy.

"To whom?" he asked in dejected tones.

"To whom? Well, to—to—" she

paused an instant, "to lots of people—to your friends, for instance."

"Oh, they wouldn't mind much," he assured her cheerily. "They'd get over it in a day or two. I really don't think anybody would mind much. There are such heaps of other fellows to take one's place, you know."

"Don't be silly! They would mind. Some would," she replied, becoming a little confused.

The Burglar took a step forward and stood looking down at her with a sudden expression of earnestness.

"Would you?" he asked bluntly.

Her eyes dropped, and she let her cheek rest on her hand as she gazed at the dying embers in the grate.

"Who dares greatly," she murmured, "achieves much."

"But you!" He made a mute gesture of protest. "You are the belle of the London season—whereas I am only—"

She looked up at him under her lashes without raising her head.

"A burglar!" she said softly.

"I renounce the profession from this moment," he declared firmly.

"And the teapot?" she inquired. He looked at her with a pathetic appeal.

"It means £50 to me," he said apologetically.

She rose, and, crossing to the sideboard, opened it, and drew out a small silver teapot, which she held up.

"Will this one do?" she asked.

"Admirably," he said, brightening. "It's just the very thing. Let's put it into the bag at once."

"Wait a moment," she replied, with tantalizing deliberation. "Before I give it you you must promise me two things. The first is, that you will return the teapot intact to-morrow; the second is, that you will never, never, never try to be a burglar again—not even to win a horse!"

"A pony," he corrected mildly. "Yes, I will promise both things faithfully, if—observe, it's my turn now!—if—"

"Go on!" she commanded sternly. "If—"

"If you will promise to marry me," he said, as, with a swift movement, he suddenly clasped her in his arms.

"Oh!" she cried, "you have made me drop the teapot—and the noise will very likely wake Sir Thomas!"

"Great heavens!" he ejaculated, stooping quickly and picking up the fallen utensil. "And he'll probably, in the excitement of the moment, shoot us both!"

They listened a moment in tense, anxious attitudes, but not a sound came to break the peaceful stillness of the house.

"Safe!" she exclaimed at length, with a deep breath. "Now, please, take the teapot and go—go at once, before you drop it again and really do wake someone. I will let you out quietly by the front door."

"You're an angel," he murmured, attempting once more to fold her in his embrace, but she eluded him with a quick, supple movement.

"No—not again—not once," she warned him, "till you bring back the teapot!"

The Burglar placed the teapot carefully in his bag, put on his overcoat, thrust the black mask into his pocket, and looked at her solemnly.

"Then I will bring it back to-morrow morning—early," he said, with quiet decision. "It is agreed."

"Enhurst," he said, an hour later, to a very sleepy young nobleman, "I don't want to disturb your slumbers, nor Craster's, but you can kindly write me out a check for £50. Here's Sir Thomas' teapot."—*The Sketch*.

For Engagement Rings. "Why did you accept George so suddenly after you had refused him only last week?"

"Because I read in the papers that diamonds were getting cheaper."—*Baltimore American*.

When a man fails in business, some people are sure to say, "I'll bet he feathered his nest."