

GREAT RISKS; POOR PAY

Positions Held in Which Error Means Loss of Life.

RESULT OF ONE MISTAKE

If Man in Washington Failed to Press Telegraph Key at a Certain Time the Loss to Shipping Would be Enormous.

Scattered throughout every city and in many of the smaller ones are hundreds of men earning small salaries and facing huge responsibilities.

Suppose, for instance, that one of the minor officials in the weather bureau at Washington should fail to press a telegraph key at certain stated intervals each day.

This duty may seem unimportant, yet were he to fail in it the entire shipping business of the Atlantic coast would be disarranged and vast sums of money would be involved.

Each time he touches the key he regulates and adjusts the clocks by which the time for the entire Atlantic coast is set.

The workmen were provided with dressing-rooms, where they were obliged to change their clothing and put on soft felt shoes instead of the ones they wore out of doors.

The responsibility upon the shoulders of railroad men is well known and thoroughly appreciated.

Suppose there was a fire at Van Buren and State streets. The policeman who discovers it sends in the alarm immediately.

At four places in England and at many in other European countries there are men who perform important duties on a pay of \$4 or \$5 a week.

Every day of their lives they are supposed to make a thorough inspection of the walls and to repair and report even the slightest sign of a leak.

One would think that such a monotonous duty, performed year after year, would make these men grow careless or forgetful of the importance of their missions.

Four years ago the watchman at the great Scroby dam, in Lancashire, saw a tiny leak that would have escaped the notice of most men.

He reported it immediately, and the experts who were sent to make an examination reported that if he had not been so prompt another twenty-four hours would have brought 20,000,000 tons of water sweeping the valley.

One of these accidents was prevented by the discovery that a small stone had bulged about an eighth of an inch.

A FIRE THAT WON'T GO OUT.

Phenomenon Exhibited at Railway Station in Scotland.

Several months ago a waste pile of ground close to the station was wanted by the railway company as a siding.

Fresh energy was then brought to bear, and much more water was poured on this fire, which seemed to have its stronghold in the bowels of the earth.

It was now whispered and soon became known that the station had originally been built upon a sort of shale, which came out of the mines in the near neighborhood years ago.

The fire gained ground every day, until by and by it reached beneath one of the platforms, and any day thereafter might be seen the novelty of a crowd of people waiting on a platform from the chinks and crevices of which were arising in many places jets of steam from the fire below.

In time it was observed that the foundations of the station were settling and cracking and twisting in many places, and all sorts of efforts had to be resorted to to keep the buildings from being permanently injured.

It is now a foregone conclusion that the fire cannot be extinguished, and it is being left to have its own sweet way and burn itself out.

Freight Car as a Lock-Up for Tramps. A novel jail delivery occurred near my home recently, remarked a suburbanite.

Brainwork Doesn't Kill. In the lecture on longevity delivered last week before the Royal College of Physicians, Sir Hermann Weber, himself an octogenarian, gave official support to the doctrine which we recently set forth in this column—that brainwork does not kill, but rather the reverse.

At the Ozar's peace congress English was widely used, and now in the Venezuela arbitration Great Britain, Germany and Italy maintain that the documentary pleadings shall be in English.

DUELING BY THE INDIANS

In Some Tribes This Meant Death to Both.

AN AWFUL TEST OF NERVE

An Eyewitness Describes the Famous Duel Between Indian Chief Carpenter and a White Named Price.

“What is the Indian method of dueling?” asked the deputy sheriff. “That depends upon the tribe. There are some tribes where a challenge to a duel means inevitably that both men must die.

“Some of the tribes have learned to fight according to the code of the white man, however, among these the Choctaws or Cherokees, which reminds me of the famous duel in July of 1883, when the celebrated Choctaw chief, Carpenter, fought near the Pine Creek Indian agency with a white man named Price.

As usual, this trouble was started by a disagreement over some trivial matter which caused a dispute and ended in that the white man called his red brother a liar.

“Whenever you're ready say the word,” cried Price. “You can do your washing right here and now, if you please.”

“Not now, sir, but to-morrow morning when the sun peeps over the top of that wild plum tree you must be here, and without fail.”

“With a wild shout the crowd pressed forward to surround the lucky chief, but before aid could reach him he fell senseless.

“The question raised at The Hague international court as to the language in which the Venezuela arbitration is to be conducted marks the steady progress of English speech.

When a Man Sneezes. It appears that many savage and semicivilized races of the orient have some curious customs regarding the sneeze.

A Profitable Play. Bostond's Cyrano de Bergerac must come near to being the most successful play ever written. In Paris alone it has had 675 representations, and its total receipts in that city for that number of performances was 4,180,000 francs.

FALLACY OF NICARAUGUA ROUTE.

Three Objections to Panama Canal Are Dealt With.

It may be interesting to refer to the three objections which have been raised by the advocates of the Nicaragua route.

As to the first, the objection is apparent rather than real since the time lost on the longer sea route will be lost compensated for the gain in time required to traverse the canal.

In fine, now that the problem has been thoroughly studied, and that the facts are known, and that fortune has enabled us to secure the better route we have good reason to rejoice that hasty action was delayed, and that no mistake has been made in the selection.

Off the shores of the Esophorus M. Pierre Loti, novelist and Academician, has had baptized, with mock pomp and ceremony, his ship's kitten.

Achievements of the Negro. Forty years ago the negroes of the South did not own a square foot of ground, nor a roof to cover them.

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RAPID GROWTH OF JAPAN

A Comparison of the “Little” Country and Russia.

THE WEAKNESS OF RUSSIA

The Surprising Progress Made by Japan is due to the Intense Loyalty of Her Subjects to Their Ruler.

While Russia's essential weakness, in the utter discredit with which her promises are regarded by the nations, in the internal troubles which are assailing her and in her financial dependence upon those who distrust her, is becoming patent to all, dispelling the dream with which her mere size has heretofore dominated the imagination of the world.

Nor is Japan's wealth by any means solely of this sentimental sort. She is rich not merely in the honor and patriotism of her people.

Leaving out of account the islets having less than one or two and one-half miles of coast line the empire of Japan comprises 487 islands.

As to the aggregate of the nation's wealth, while no such claim as the above can be made, yet if the comparative tables of the revenue and expenditures of the government for the thirty-five years of Japan's new era may be taken as an index of the growth of the nation's wealth,

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The Kaiser's Artistic Taste. The refusal of the German National Gallery to purchase Prof. Kamp's “The Sisters,” which was the picture of the season, still excites German connoisseurs.

AN ITALIAN TRAGEDY.

Dramatic Crime Almost Perpetrated Near Milan.

Extraordinary interest has been aroused by the discovery the other day of one of the most remarkable crimes that have ever occupied public attention.

Yielding to the threats of his captor, Berretta signed the testament, but he had not even then learned the full details of the plot of which he was the victim.

For reasons which are not as yet quite clear the servant did not carry out his orders.

Ingenious Life-Saver. The life-savers attached to Uncle Sam's stations on Fire Island encountered great difficulties and dangers in crossing the Great South Bay to the Long Island shore.

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Russia Dominates Asia. There can be no doubt but that Russia has been holding the “whip-hand” over China, and, in general, the whole of Central Asia as far south as the Indian border—rulers in substance if not in name—quietly pushing forward to consummation her gigantic schemes for political and commercial dominance in Asia.

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