This Railroad Was Expensive

Quarter of a Mile of Jefferson Branch of Erie Cost $125,000 to Build.

The recent disappearance of parts of the Canadian Northern roadbed into bog holes has led to many stories by railroad engineers about somewhat similar troubles.

The New York, Susquehanna and Western, now owned by the Erie, had troubles with several such holes it met with while the road was being constructed through New Jersey that for a time held up the construction of the road.

An expert railroad constructing engineer gives it as his opinion that the most expensive piece of railroad construction in this country up to recent years, at least, was a small piece of the Jefferson branch of the Erie, between Carbondale and Susquehanna. The exact spot is near Ararat. This road was originally built by the Delaware and Hudson. Here is what the engineer has to say about it:

Engineering Feats.

"Some of the recent gigantic engineering feats in railroad construction in the Rock Mountains and elsewhere may have equired the making of a more costly quarter of a mile of roadbed than a stretch of that length of construction on a little railroad up in Pennsylvania did, but up to the date of some of those possible tasks I believe that the quarter of a mile of roadbed on that Pennsylvania road was the most costly in the world. That railroad, now a division of the Erie, climbs the lofty hills of Northeastern Pennsylvania between Susquehanna and Carbondale.

"When it was constructed the roadbed for the distance of a quarter of a mile disappeared one night. An apparently bottomless bog covered all that distance where the railroad had been and the space of fifty feet in width. After 10,000 cartloads of rock and gravel, over 100,000 tons, and more than 500 great hemlock trees, branches and all, had been thrown into that great pit without having any visible effect toward the forming of some kind of a bottom to it an effort was made to sound it.

160 Feet Deep.

"A pile 40 feet long was thrust down into it its entire length. On top of that pile another the same length was placed and driven down, and forcing the one beneath it on down, and still no bottom was struck. Two more forty-foot timbers were put down on top of those two before solid ground was found, and it was known that a pit 160 feet deep, 50 feet wide and a quarter of a mile long had to be filled up before the railroad could get any further on its way.

"The existence of this curious formation at this spot was the more remarkable because it was on the summit of a rocky ridge more than 2,000 feet above this. When the depth of the big sink was determined a row of piles was driven in the manner of the test piles, on both sides of the space required for the rehabilitation of the roadbed and the securing of its maintenance.

"More than 10,000 of those huge timbers were used, being driven close together to form subterranean booms that prevented the escape of any thing dumped into the enclosure thus made.

LIFE OF THE HAIR.

When the hair begins to fall out it may require the advice of a specialist, but a little cheap experimenting sometimes sets matters right.

Perhaps you find washing the hair a great trouble and neglect to clean the scalp. This becmes clogged and the hair falls out.

You fly immediately to some patent remedy and by rubbing the expensive concoction into the scalp with a sponge succeed in freeing the pores. New life returns to the roots and the restoration is voted marvelous. It is a mighty good thing in many cases to use these remedies, but not always. Many hair lotions are very valuable but there is no harm first in seeing whether soap and water "will do the trick."

Often this is all that is needed.

"I can't be bothered to wash my hair frequently," you say, and stop at that.

If the hair is abundant there is a good reason why you shirk the task, but try making a good lather, dip scalp.

Another way is to part the hair down the center and rub it with a piece of sponge dipped in soapy lather.

Continue the partings on each side till the whole head is thoroughly cleaned.

The long hair will not be soaked, only the top of the head.

You need not rinse the soap away.

If you rub well with a towel your head will dry quickly and there will be no trace of stickiness if fairly soft wafer is used.

Should you not care to do this the sponge dipped in clear water and used as before will remove the soap.

AN AID TO BEAUTY.

Camphor water applied to the nose with a soft cloth at intervals will reduce the pores of the skin.

Persons not susceptible to colds should try walking briskly in the rain without an umbrella as a tonic for the complexion.

Equal portions of pure rice powder and some one of the favorite French face powders make a delicate and effectual filling for the powder box of the woman who always cannot afford the French brands.

The teeth should be brushed thoroughly with a reliable powder or paste in the morning and lightly after each meal and before going to bed.

The new modeled tailored suits at Menner & Co. stores are made on modern lines of best materials, latest cuts.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACT TO PREVENT LOSSES BY FIRE

Ex-Chief Croker Suggests a Department Founded on "Pure Food" Lines.

He Would Not Permit a Piece of Wood In Buildings Three Stories High.

EDWARD F. CROKER, former chief of the New York fire department and who has a record of more than a quarter of a century as a fire fighter, was one of the chief speakers at the recent international municipal congress and exposition at Chicago. Mr. Croker's subject was "The Reduction of Fire Waste," and his address was devoted principally to the question of fire prevention instead of fire fighting. In part Mr. Croker said:

"I have fought the fire demon in New York city for twenty-seven years, twelve of which were spent as the ranking officer of the uniformed force. Throughout these years I was steadily and irresistibly led to the conclusion that, while fire fighting and fire extinguishing organizations of our great modern cities had reached a high state of efficiency and were keeping well abreast of the demands made upon them, our citizens, as a rule, paid too little attention to the vital matter of fire prevention.

"The enormous fire waste of the United States varies from $200,000,000 to $400,000,000 annually, and the vastly greater indirect losses that result seriously affect our economic and civic progress. The loss of lives by fire is one that cannot be realized save by those unfortunates whose relatives and friends have been lost in many deplorable calamities.

Great Loss Unnecessary.

"This utter destruction of more than a quarter of a billion of dollars in property in addition to the lives incalculable in money value is not an act of God nor one of the inevitable chances of industry and commerce.

"All that is necessary is to apply the test of comparison with other countries of like civilization. In round numbers the per capita fire loss in the United States has been from $2 to $4 against 33 cents in the principal European countries. One of the conditions in these countries that operates to effect a lesser loss than here is the larger use of noncombustible materials due to the high cost of wood. Another reason is the intangible influence of their older civilization, which makes these people more careful of small savings in all their affairs and generally more cautious than we have yet become.

"But, allowing for these fundamental differences between the countries compared, it is yet apparent that the fire loss in the United States, which is between seven and eight times that of the greatest European country, is outrageously and criminally greater than it should be. It has been my observation that the large majority of fires arise from preventable causes. In fact, every fire of consequence is preventable.

"The subject of fire prevention is vastly more important than that of fire fighting. When one conflagration has been checked or prevented you have accomplished little. The chances for repetition tomorrow are equally as great.

What Is Fireproof.

"If we are to better conditions you must realize that 'fireproof' is not 'fireproof' as it is understood today. The literal definition remains, but many crimes have been committed in its name. I know of no more abused word. I am sincere in the conviction that the government should make it a heavily punishable offense to apply the term to anything but an absolutely fireproof building.

"There is but one principle to fireproof construction, be it either homes, hotels, office buildings, theaters, apartments, battleships, railway cars or what. To have fireproof buildings archhitects and owners must throw aside precedent and eliminate the use of combustible and semicombustible materials in their construction.

"If I had my way about it I would not permit a piece of wood, even the size of a lead pencil, to be used in the construction or finish of any building in the United States exceeding a ground area of 25 by 50 feet or three stories in height. If there was still an absolute necessity for its use, if it could not be replaced with steel, as it has been in many modern constructions, it would then be well to attempt to conceive of something better. I am opposed to the use of wood in any form in fireproof buildings, and the law ought not to permit its use. Wooden floors, wooden window frames, doors and casings burn and help other things to burn; wooden trim and bases burn—everything that is made of wood burns and helps the fire to spread. Eliminate wood—remove the cause, and you have precluded the possibility of fires.

"We have no department of our government devoted to the matter of fire prevention. Our laws on the subject are not specialized to completely cover any particular building or business, although they could be made broad enough in their general application to go a great way toward partly solving the problem.

Federal Action Suggested.

"It is my firm conviction that the United States government should establish a department, founded somewhat on the lines of the pure food law, for the purpose of establishing laboratories whose business it should be to test and classify various materials used throughout the construction of fireproof buildings in order that the public may be provided with a satisfactory and sane schedule of standards of known safety and which shall be accepted as such by all departments and authorities in this country, and the law or laws necessary to make these conditions possible should be enacted with the idea constantly in mind that the present so called fireproof building is such only so far as its exterior s concerned and that legislation is needed and demanded by the public to insure adequate and proper protection to the lives of all persons who may be called upon to congregate in all buildings of a public or semipublic nature.

"Under the majority of the present building codes so called fireproof buildings are substantially fireproof in the sense that a conflagration rarely does serious injury to the building itself. The flames may rage from room to room and floor to floor; floors, doors, partitions and all interior fittings may char and be consumed; the contents may be destroyed throughout and some or many of the occupants lose their lives, but the four walls and framework, that is, the organic structure of the building, usually comes through the conflagration intact. It is the combustion of contents, not damage to the buildings themselves, that makes fire losses in the United States so heavy in proportion to the amount spent for new construction. The need, therefore, is not for ordinance requirements which will make the buildings more effectually 'fireproof,' but enactments which will protect the inmates and contents of buildings by making it impossible for a fire once started to course virtually unchecked from room to room and floor to floor of a building whose walls are fireproof. In other words, death proof and conflagration proof construction are necessary requirements for new compulsory legislation for 'fireproof construction.'

Future Construction.

"Future construction must be so required that the starting of flames in one room of a building need not make imperative the instantaneous exit therefrom of all persons employed in the building, or even on the floor where the fire starts. Means of safety for both persons and property must be secured in the building, and even on the floor where the fire starts, by making impossible the instantaneous converting of elevator shafts and stairways into flues for the flames and by making impossible the rapid spread of flames from room to room and floor to floor. Nothing could be more dangerous, more expensive or more unnecessary than the idea that the safety of workers in factory and loft buildings can best be secured, or can be secured at all, by providing means of rapid exit to the street. The cost of the kind of fire escapes and the additional stairways properly required, as well as the considerable space occupied by such devices, would make them almost prohibitive in expense, even if practicable or effectual, which they could not be.

"Even if, however, all the occupants could be got out safely and in time, no reason appears why the contents should be left to the mercy of flames coursing from room to room and floor to floor until checked by the activities of the firemen. Both persons and property should be afforded protection in the building by making its construction really fireproof—that is, death proof and conflagration proof—thereby confining the flames to a limited area within which to burn themselves out, consuming only such contents as are not removed to safety behind doors and partitions as effectually fire resisting as the walls themselves.

One Great Lesson.

"One great lesson which many recent fires have taught is that no building is more fireproof than are its doors and windows, while the presence of wood in trim or casing anywhere lessens to that extent the fire resisting and fire confining power of the structure. No matter if the walls are fully fireproof, doors of wooden construction permit the flames to sweep from room to room and floor to floor instead of being confined to one room, as is possible in fireproof buildings in reality, not fireproof only in name.

"How often it is true that hotels, theaters, apartment buildings and the like are advertised as 'fireproof throughout' only to have some fire disclose that the buildings were veritable 'fire traps,' the fireproof construction of the walls, floors and even stairways making only more perfect flues for the rapid combustion of tinder-like doors, partitions, window casings, trim and room contents. Those who go into public hotels and halls at night should have protection and assurance that representations of fireproof construction are in reality well founded.

"Every building should have straight, broad stairways of fireproof construction, and every door and partition, no matter how small or how temporary, should be fireproof."

Convicts Cheering A Convict Play

All those who have attended "Alias Jimmy Valentine" in the past will be at least interested to read that that stirring play of convict life, which on so many occasions has warmed the hearts of law-abiding citizens of the land, was as much of a thriller to nearly 2,000 prisoners at the San Quentin Prison in California some two weeks ago. The prisoners, of whom nine had been convicted to die, cheered rampantly the exciting elements of the play, and when at the end the hero's pardon is finally secured, their joy made itself known for miles around. The Governor of California was himself an interested spectator and, though visibly affected by the scene, refused to make comment or to admit that he proposed pardoning any of the condemned men. The following account of this unique performance is gleaned from the San Francisco Evening Post of October 5. It recounts that:

Sitting with their heads bared in the sunlight of the prison yard, with "condemned row" as the lobby of their open-air theatre, 1,851 prisoners—nine of them condemned to die—unfolded one of the greatest dramas of life to-day as "Alias Jimmy Valentine," the great convict paly, was enacted by the same company that has been appearing before San Francisco audiences.

The production of the noted play, which carries with it a mighty lesson to all humanity, marked one of the most remarkable incidents in the history of prisons. It was the first time in history that a professional play, with all its scenery and original cast, was ever given inside the walls of an institution where men and women are denied the rights of associating with persons of the outer world because of their crimes against society.

It was the most unique audience that ever gathered to witness a play and the rows of men in their stripes of shame and the women prisoners in their blue dresses furnished a scene that has never before been witnessed.

It was the drama of life revolving about the drama of the stage, and as the regeneration of the stageland burglar was unfolded, the enthusiasm of the convicts waxed warmer and warmer until it ended in a mighty cheer for the character that showed them their inner selves as they wished to be known when outside the walls of the prison.

But for the stripes on every hand one would have forgotten that he was in a prison. The convicts were not treated as outcasts of society, but as men of the world. There were speeches, extolling the virtues of the stageland burglar who "turned good."

When the noon hour approached the prisoners were taken to the prison yard, where everything had been arranged for the great show. They took their seats, even as you would take your seat in a "first-come-first-served" theatre. The prison band played the usual overture and then the curtain of canvas was raised and "Alias Jimmy Valentine," with his message of hope to the poor souls denied their liberty, was theirs.

The audience was composed of prisoners with the nine condemned men sitting close by the fifteen women, who were the special guests of Warden Hoyle. No outsiders, beyond newspaper men and prison attaches, were allowed inside the walls.

The play which dealt with a convict's struggles for reformation was presented on a convict-built stage, with part of the scenery painted by convicts. A convict band furnished the music. The stage was in a corner of the prison yard and the players' voices echoed back from the windows of the death-cell.

When seemingly the last convict had been seated on a slope looking over the walls, nine cell doors clanked open and as many men, condemned to death, clattered down the iron stairs and lined up at the foot, with George Figueroa, a happy-faced boy who is to die for the murder of his wife in Los Angeles, at the head.

Mrs. Hiram W. Johnson, wife of the Governor of California, with a member of the State Board of Pardons and his wife, were the only civilian guests present, although high officials for three days past interceded for themselves and their friends to obtain admittance.

The first scene, we read, was most realistic:

It showed the office of the warden in the play and the furniture was taken from the office of Warden Hoyle.

Then as each scene was unfolded the prisoners compared it with their own life, and that the experiment was a telling one could be gathered from the expressions heard on all sides. All agreed that the show was a good one. Some of the men, prominent in the days before their crime made them outcasts, reviewed the show with the stoicism of the man of the outer world.

Others not so well groomed in the advance of the drama talked of it as a child with some new toy. They could not review it with the same light that the others had, but its moral sank all the deeper, and for the time they forgot that they were looking and hearing only the artificial life of the stage and lost themselves in its story as though they were watching the game of life.

From early morning there was much hurry and bustle about the prison, for the convicts made ready the stage settings under the guidance of a skilled stage-hand. Captain William G. Leale of the steamer Caroline, and known as "the prisoners' friend," carried extra chairs and scenery from this city to the prison early to-day and the prisoners hustled as they never did before to get everything in place in time for the curtain to rise on time.

When it was time for the play to begin, the prisoners gathered in the grounds, where a natural amphitheater is formed under the walls of the old sash factory. No extra guards were employed, and the convicts moved in an orderly manner. It was an event, indeed, in their lives, and to some it brought back the ever-haunting yesterday.

The warden of the play and the warden of San Quentin are two different characters. One, the stage warden, is an unthinking, unsympathetic, uncouth brute. John Hoyle, warden of San Quentin, is a fair friend, kind and considerate of every man who wears the stripes. The man that stalked the boards in that prison yard was far different in his relation to "Alias Jimmy Valentine" than Warden Hoyle appears in the eyes of the unfortunates in the prison.

Jimmy Valentine himself illustrates "honor among thieves." On the stage he is portrayed, by H. B. Warner, an Englishman, and he captivates you from the moment he makes his first appearance till the curtain drops. He never "peaches" on his "pals," and it is his very stedfastness that wins for him his reward in the end.

HOW TO ADJUST A VEIL.

It is very sad but there is only about one woman in a thousand who realizes the importance of a properly adjusted veil. To arrange a veil over the queer shaped hats worn this fall is not an easy matter, but if a woman values her appearance she will take time to put on her "beautifier" as neatly and becomingly as possible.

It is well to avoid cheap cells, and it is unwise to wear any veil too long as it is extremely bad to have anything near the skin that is not absolutely clean.

Cream brussels net veils are worn a great deal this autumn, and they have the advantage of washing like the proverbial handkerchief.

Spotted black and white veils are in favor, and when lined with pink malines they are great complexion aids. Chantilly lace is also fashionable, but one has to be careful with what kind of hat lace veils are worn. A very large hat with a lace veil runs the risk of being overdecorative and of over-weighting the dress that is worn with it.

This season all veils are eased round the brim so as not to touch the face too closely. And no one twists the veil into a little knot beneath the chin, a habit that was ruinous to the veil and unbecoming to the wearer.

It is a fairly safe thing to say that the best way to put on a veil is to pucker it in front, attach it to the edge of the brim, carry the upper edge of the veil all round the hat and fasten it with a pin, gather up the lower part, fasten that and the veil will then be hanging quite loose all round the face, but not in a becoming manner for the profile probably. This, however, can be made right by two hairpins, which should be attached to the back edges of the veil under the brim behind. It is most important that veils should be carefully folded and put away after each wearing, and it is a pleasant fashion to keep a sachet of rose leaves among them, so that when brought into use they are delicately perfumed.

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