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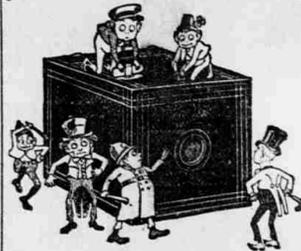
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VALUABLE SECRETS.

Nearly everybody must remember the story printed a few days ago of the man who had discovered a way to set water on fire. Of course, the story turned out to be untrue, but it served to emphasize the fact that if a man should really possess so terrible a secret he would be the most dangerous of mortals, for he might at any instant start a conflagration which would destroy all the life on the world, if not the world itself.

There are other secrets, however, well authenticated, whose revelation might work no end of trouble. An Ohio Postmaster's method of obliterating all traces of ink on cancelled postage stamps is one of them. It is said that the United States has paid \$50,000 to this Postmaster to have him forget what he has discovered. This amount would probably be small compared to the cost and loss to the Government should he betray his secret to the public.

There is an English secret worth even more than this one, however. This is the secret of one who occupies a small cottage on the Thames marshes near London; a cottage differing in no way from a dozen others so far as the casual observer notes. Yet within that modest dwelling is hidden the secret of submarine mines that guard the port of London, and for which, gossip runs, a foreign power offered \$200,000.

Another English secret of which Great Britain will probably want to know something if it is ever threatened with invasion is the "secret war plan" of Admiral Cochrane, tenth Earl of Dundonald, grandfather of the gallant soldier who bears the title today.

It was declared to be an invention capable of destroying any fleet or fortress in the world. When first he made his announcement it was referred to a secret committee consisting of the Duke of York, Lord Keith, Lord Exmouth and the two Congreaves, who pronounced it "infallible, irresistible, but inhuman." It was on the latter ground alone that the scheme was not adopted.

When the inventor entered the service of Chile the Prince Regent exacted from him a solemn pledge that he would never betray his knowledge to any other power. He kept his promise, and though the plans were reconsidered and their adoption advocated when the Crimean War broke out, the matter was allowed to lie in abeyance.

Schemes like this one are frequent subjects of great state secrets. Here is one that will never be known. There died at Moscow last month Prof. Philipoff, who, had he lived a few weeks longer, was to have communicated to the St. Petersburg Academy of Science the secret of death-dealing engines of his invention which, he claimed, would make war impossible.—New York World.

THE MECHANICAL OPERATOR.

Thomas A. Edison believes there is no work so mechanical as the telegraph operator's. In an argument over this point with a couple of friends the other day, he told the following story:

"One night when I was a 'cub' operator in Cincinnati, I noticed an immense crowd gathering in the street outside a newspaper office. I called the attention of the other operators to the crowd and we sent a messenger boy out to find the cause of the excitement. He returned in a few minutes and shouted out:

"'Lincoln's shot!'"

"Instinctively the operators looked from one face to the other to see which man had received the news. All the faces were blank, and every man said he had not taken a word about the shooting. 'Look over your file,' said the boss to the man handling press stuff. For a few moments we waited in suspense, and then the man held up a sheet of paper containing a short account of the attack on the president. The operator had worked so mechanically that he had handled the news without the slightest knowledge of its significance."

COLONEL HAY'S GOOD MEMORY.

It is said of James G. Blaine that to meet a man once was to fix him in mind forever. Colonel John Hay, secretary of state, has the same useful gift. A newspaper man was reminded pleasantly of that fact. Years ago when he was young he wrote a book and Colonel Hay, who lived in Cleveland and had abundant leisure kindly read it in manuscript form. It found a publisher and was sent into the world to be forgotten. The man who wrote it met Colonel Hay at a reception recently. He went up to the secretary and said: "Colonel, you don't remember me. I am—" "Have you written any more books as good as that one on—?" asked Colonel Hay in a flash. The newspaper man was happy. He knew that Colonel Hay had not thought of the book in twenty years, but it made him glad to be remembered.

CAUGHT ON THE FLY.

Miss Spinster—I hear them calling for you in the other room. They want you to sing.
Jack—Oh, I don't want to sing! I shan't answer. If they come for me, they'll see that we are engaged.
"Engaged? Oh, Jack! What an odd way to propose, and so sudden! But it's all right—I accept you, you dear boy!"

VOYAGE IN AIR.

An attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an air ship is about to be made by Elisee Reclus, a noted French geographer, and Louis Capazza, the inventor of the parachute balloon and an aeronaut who distinguished himself a few years ago by making a daring trip across the Mediterranean Sea from France to Corsica.

The start will be made from the Canary Islands about the middle of next May. An enormous balloon is being built for the trip, four times larger than the largest ever made. It will have a capacity of about 46,000 cubic feet and will be spherical in shape, and will be inflated with hydrogen gas.

The balloon will have two baskets. The upper one will be furnished with a cabin for sleeping. The principal accessory will be a nonsinkable boat equipped with a sixty horse-power motor and fuel for a twenty-day run.

It is calculated that the probabilities are that the balloon may land at one of three points—near the mouth of the Amazon River, near the Island of Trinidad or in Yucatan, Mexico.

From the Island of Palma, in the Canaries, the distance to Para, Brazil, is 2,600 miles, to Trinidad 3,100 and to Yucatan, crossing the Caribbean Sea, 4,900. The highest average speed of the wind is reckoned at 50 miles an hour and the lowest 30. Making only the lowest speed over the greatest distance, the time required will be 6 days and 19 hours. Going at the highest speed the shortest distance, the time required will be 2 days and 4 hours.

The balloon will be provided with means of changing its course north or south, and may choose a landing at any point on the north coast of South America.

In case of accident the balloonist can take refuge in the nonsinkable boat, taking sufficient food for six weeks. They have no fear of incurring the fate of Andre, for the region they seek is more quiet, the winds are more certain and the balloon is adequate.

The scheme is being taken up with great enthusiasm by the Aero Club of France and is exciting much interest in balloon circles all over Europe. James Gordon Bennett is credited with contributing \$40,000 to it.—Paris Cor. Chicago Record-Herald.

A CHANGE.

Servant—De doctor said I musn't give you no more brandy, sah.
Major—The devil he did! Why, brandy is my favorite beverage.
"I knows dat, sah. But de doctor said you must change off."
"Oh, well, then, we'll make a change."
"To what, sah?"
"To another doctor."

NATURAL LIMITATIONS.

"The doctor told Bulger he must take regular exercise, and he has decided to walk four blocks every morning before breakfast."
"Four blocks? Humph, that isn't much of a walk."
"I know; but it is just two blocks from Bulger's house to the nearest saloon."

I RESTORE STRENGTH



Thousands of men are mere pygmies of what nature intended them—backward, over-sensitive, fearing to venture, delicate, easily discouraged, short of breath, weak-nerved, lacking in grit, the "sand" which is the possession of vigorous health. They need Electricity, which is animal vitality. It is the foundation of all vigor. It is the fuel to the engine which runs the human machine. Electricity, as I apply it, is a source of new life to all parts of the body. My

Dr. McLaughlin's Electric Belt

Restores the snap, the vim and vigor of youth. Any man who wears it can be a giant in mental and physical development. Men, are you weak, have you pains in the back, varicose, weak stomach, constipation, lumbago, rheumatism, enlarged prostate gland, or any of the results of early dissipation or over-work? My method of applying Electricity while you sleep at night will cure you. It fills the nerves with the fire of life.

Read This Evidence:

The nervous weakness I complained of the last six or seven months has entirely gone. Your Belt cured me in two months. The Belt has also done wonders for my son, who had a bad case of rheumatism. Since my cure I have praised your Belt to many doctors as well as others, and will continue to do so.

H. W. YOUNG, Fort Harford, Cal.
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