

and strong as the "Allanite" which had made him famous. One felt that if this man wanted to eat nuts he could dispense with the crackers. His voice had rung out clear and resonant. The strong brown arm (tattooed with two crossed hammers) which they had watched as he drew the chalk lines on the black-board was the arm of an athlete and a boxer. They had indeed studied their man much as a boxer is studied by those who think of backing him. He was a good specimen—there was no doubt about it. One could lose on him without being ashamed of it. And then he was Lloyd's selection. They knew, too, that for twelve years he had worked as a youth in a coal mine and they reflected that in the intervening twenty years he had worked himself up to a good height—from one thousand yards underground in that mine up to the roof-garden. These were good credentials. The mere planning out of the great enterprise was a big achievement in itself, and the biggest achievement of all had been the getting of them all together—the whole thirty of them—at a given hour and forcing them to sit there listening to him in a temperature of ninety in the shade. They seemed to see the strange thing happening before their eyes—each one of them in turn deciding to take his share in the venture.

Allan was speaking: "I shall need water-power equal to that of all the Niagara Power Works put together. Niagara is no longer available, so I shall have to create my own Niagara."

They awoke from their musing, and sat looking at him.

They noticed one other remarkable thing about this man. Throughout the whole of his address he had neither laughed nor perpetrated a joke. Humour did not seem to be one of his characteristics. The assembled company had had only one laugh all the time. That was when the photographers had engaged in a heated squabble among themselves and Allan had called out to them in his masterful way—"Stop your nonsense."

Allan ended up by reading tributes from the leading experts from all parts of the world—engineers, geologists, oceanographers, and statisticians.

What evoked the keenest interest of all was Lloyd's *résumé* of the expenses involved and the profits to be expected. Allan