ST. JOHN DEEPLY MOVED BY COMMON SORROW OF EMPIRE

Thousands of Her Loyal Citizens Pay Tribute to Greatest King the World Has Yet Known

Assemblage of the Military Friday Largest Ever Seen in This City, About One Thousand Men Being in Line—Parade to Trinity Church, Where Impressive Service Was Held—Archdeacon Raymond's Sermon.

Saturday, May 21.

Here in St. John the imperial funeral day was made a period in civic history by a complete and not unimpressive muster of all the marks of grief to which every agency, public and private, could have recourse. It was by no means a faint echo which reached the monarchy-adhering city of the splendid mourning pageant which London saw on the occasion of the greatest funeral the world has ever known. Moved by the greatest common sorrow they could know, the citizens mourned en masse throughout the day, the awe of the occasion in every face, each eager to gather all he could in the way of increased conception of the sad significance of the event.

As the people rose to pay that most notable tribute which an earnest, workaday community can bring to any personality or event—a unanimous cessation from the activities which give it existence—the tolling of many bells brought to them the first of the day long reminder that all the city, as all the empire was with them, in mind or in bodily presence, at the bier of him whose loss was now being realized with the arrival of the day on which his people must bid him their last earthly farewell. With the advance of the burial day the impression of uniform public mourning became more vivid as the churches filled, that the last requiem might be sung. The afternoon brought the military demonstration which was the last the wearers of the King's uniform might assemble for ere they marched for another and when the memorable day was fading into night the last farewell of all came, from the batteries of the Loyalist city, which boomed forth their share in the globe-circling salute of an empire.

In eight places of worship in St. John special services were held in memory of the buried King. That held in Trinity in the morning was notable for the attendance of the mayor, the aldermen, civic officials, the officers of the permanent and active militia and reserve staff, St. George's Society and Sons of England.

The Military Parade.

The assemblage of the military in St. John yesterday afternoon to attend the memorial service in Trinity church was the largest which has ever attended any event in the city. Every division of the forces established in St. John was represented in a line of nearly 1,000 men who gathered at the Barrack Green at 2.30 o'clock and marched to Trinity church to participate in the memorial service, at which Rev. Archdeacon Raymond, chaplain of the 3rd N. B. Heavy Brigade, C. A., was the preacher. The bands were ordered silent on the march to the church, making the more impressive the way of the soldiers between the packed stretches of people. Inside the church the military, all others excluded, filled the entire auditorium. The Artillery occupied the right aisle and the right half of the centre division. The 62nd Fusiliers occupied the remainder of the main portion and the Cadet Corps filled the rear section. Trinity's regular choir was reinforced and furnished music of a style fitting to the occasion. The singing of the anthem without organ accompaniment was particularly fine. With the exception of the voluntary played by the band, the form was the same as that of the civil service in the morning. Rev. Dr. Raymond's sermon was masterly to a degree, with all the philosophical treatment of history he is so notably capable of, added to a rare appreciation of the significance of the event with which he treated. The audience gave evidence of its appreciation.

The march back to the Barrack Green was begun shortly after 4 o'clock. At the head of the column, with Col. Humphrey, D. O. C., and staff, were placed the retired and reserve officers, among whom were Col. Domville, Col. J. R. Armstrong, Col. Sturdee, Col. Wedderburn, Col. A. J. Armstrong, Major Gordon, Major Crawford and Major Magee. Col. Wedderburn acted as brigade major and was assisted by Major Hartt. Lieut. Col. Baxter was in charge of the parade en route to the church. Major Armstrong headed the Artillery, who were 300 in number. The Ordnance Corps followed Col. Humphrey and staff. Then came the Artillery; then the Medical Corps; then the Cadets; then the Fusiliers.

The dense crowds which lined the entire route of march were duplicated at the Barrack Green during the ceremony there following the return. So large was the turnout that the troops could not be formed in line as was intended. They were, instead, put into quarter column, forming three sides of a square, the Artillery facing west, the 62nd Fusiliers and the Army Service Corps facing north, and the Cadets and smaller corps facing east.

Col. Humphrey read in a clear voice the proclamation of the King's death, and that calling upon all public functionaries to continue in their duties. As he reached the portion commanding all loyal subjects of George V to support the officers of the crown, he turned to the citizens gathered by.

Last of all the parting salute from Dorchester battery sent its message down the black-clad streets. Sixty-eight guns were fired by a detachment from the two companies of the New Brunswick Heavy Brigade, C. A., under Major Smith. Commencing at 6.40, the firing was completed at 7.47, the hour of sunset.

Archdeacon Raymond's Sermon.

At the service in Trinity Dr. Raymond took for his text:

"Everyone of us shall give an account of himself to God." Romans xiv., 12.

Fifty years ago this summer his late majesty, King Edward VII., attended Divine service for the first time in America in the Anglican cathedral at Fredericton. The edifice naturally was crowded to its utmost capacity and the late Bishop Medley preached an eloquent sermon from the text that I have chosen for my theme today.

The young Prince of Wales was at this time on the threshold of his manhood but the venerable preacher had reached the time of life when

"The clouds that gather round the setting sun
Do take a sober coloring from an eye
That hath kept watch o'er man's mortality."

The heir apparent to the throne sat before him with ruddy cheek, his brow untouched by care, his heart warmed and his bosom thrilled with the unbounded and spontaneous tribute of loyalty and devotion which New Brunswick had extended to the prince of Brunswick's line. But the preacher was looking to the years that were to come, and as his eye rested on the youthful figure before him he thought

"Full soon thy soul shall have her earthly freight,
And custom lie upon thee with a weight
Heavy as frost, and deep almost as life!"

And then there was the thought in the good bishop's heart of the opportunity never to come again to deliver the message of the King of Kings. May I quote his opening words, which are fitting in the presence of the great congregation of men assembled here this afternoon:

"Brethren, we have never all met in this church before. It is certain we shall never all meet here again. Can I, dare I forget that you are all, from the highest to the lowest, immortal souls; sinners redeemed by the blood of a common Saviour; Christians united by a common hope, placed for a few moments under my special charge? Can I, above all, forget that if every one of us shall give account of himself to God, I myself shall give account for what I shall deliver to you this day?"

Time will not suffice even to outline the earnest words that were uttered in the course of that day's sermon. Its theme recalls an incident in the life of one of the greatest statesmen and orators of America, Daniel Webster. One day when Mr. Webster was surrounded by a company of jovial companions, whom he had been entertaining by his wit and humor, the conversation assumed a more serious turn, and one of those present asked the question, "Mr. Webster, would you mind telling me what thought has more profoundly impressed you than any other?" The smile faded from Webster's face, he removed his hat and said reverently, "Gentlemen, the thought that has impressed me more than any other thought is my personal accountability to my Maker!"

In his early years the late king enjoyed the blessing of God-fearing ancestry. His parents were both deeply religious and he was early taught to look upon the office of a sovereign as a solemn trust demanding both earnest attention and a deep consciousness of personal responsibility. It was because the late monarch felt this so keenly, and so conscientiously endeavored to live up to his convictions that he is so truly mourned today, and his loss regarded as a national calamity. For it is not England alone that is shrouded in grief today. An empire on which the sun always shines shares in the sorrow of the motherland. Nay the world itself laments the loss of one who was the friend of humanity—Edward the Peacemaker.

Speaking of the demise of the king, a leading professor in one of the largest universities in America, the University of Michigan, recently said:

"The king was not merely the most popular man in the empire, he was also the empire's most precious asset. Americans may sense what is meant if I put it thus. Were death to overtake Theodore Roosevelt now, many would feel that the United States had received a staggering blow; on the other hand, many would experience relief doubtless; but all would acknowledge frankly that something had gone out of the life of the nation, and that, partizanship aside, the future could not but shape itself differently. Now suppose that all Americans were minded towards Mr. Roosevelt as are his most enthusiastic admirers, and you will understand in part the tremendous character of the numb realization of irreparable loss that broods upon one-quarter of the human race today."

"In the United States," the professor continues, "we are so accustomed to see occurrences of minor importance heralded by huge 'scare heads' that our palates become jaded, and we are liable to lose judgment of the relative importance of things. Let me declare therefore that I believe that it is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation created by the king's demise at the present juncture. I see, from London telegrams, that when the seriousness of the monarch's condition first reached the public, the news caused consternation. No more adequate term could have been chosen."

The writer next refers to the unbounded confidence of the British people in the king's tact and judgment in dealing with foreign powers, and to his endeavors to preserve the peace of the world. He then proceeds to speak upon the more delicate subject of difficulties nearer home, the burden of which is believed to have severely taxed the king's physical and mental powers and possibly to have hastened his death.

In order to accentuate the fact that the king felt very deeply his responsibility in the emergency that seemed not unlikely to arise in the near future, let me again quote from the judicious article of our American friend:

"The present imbroglio in domestic politics," he writes, "had drawn every eye upon the throne. The king's non-interference in the matter of the budget was part and parcel of his policy of strict self-effacement in political controversy. Till the course of events rendered it imperative he would give not the slightest hint of the line of action he might pursue; and in this I, at least, think he took the right course. For when national opinion is deeply divided, it were a most perilous thing for a constitutional monarch to cast the immense power of his office into either scale, much more the exceptional authority that King Edward's personality added to his legal rights. Accordingly, I dissent entirely from the reported opinion of an anonymous writer in the Contemporary Review. The situation of last year revealed nothing that called for royal intervention, and the even balance of the late election was itself enough to justify the king's wisdom in keeping hands off."

What was it, we may ask, that had caused the chief ruler of a constitutional monarchy to attain a position so commanding in the eyes of the empire and of the world? I shall endeavor briefly to answer that question.

Historical circumstances favored King Edward. Queen Victoria had outlived all her great ministers. She had industriously and conscientiously studied all important problems of state. She was keenly alive to the national welfare at home and abroad. She had, for a portion of her reign, the sympathy and wise counsel of her husband, the Prince Consort, in the mighty problems of government of an empire that was gradually becoming as wide as the world itself. In early life her talents gained for her respect of tried counsellors, while her love for her people and sympathy with all classes elicited, as the years passed on, such expressions of loyalty and devotion as the world had never seen. On more than one occasion, when she rode through the streets of London, the tumultuous exhibitions of devotion on the part of the people astonished foreign visitors, and there are many living who have seen Queen Victoria at such times reduced to uncontrollable tears.

Thus the influence of the throne grew steadily as the 19th century waned. If the sovereigns of Europe gladly availed themselves of the advice of the British queen, so too did her own ministers. But there came a time when the weight of the empire could not be borne, in all its multiplied demands, even by so wise a woman as Victoria. So the Prince of Wales stepped more and more into the innermost councils of the realm. For more than a score of years he represented the queen on numerous important occasions, came to know the prominent personages of the age intimately, and became familiar with the complex problems of rulership in the best of all schools, experience. As a result, when he came to the throne, at the age of sixty, he was the most accomplished diplomat, and the ripest statesman in Europe, if not in the world.

Those who knew something of the king's ability and discretion before he ascended the throne averred that he was a remarkable man. Very soon after his accession the nation began to realize that the passing years, combined with unique opportunity, had brought wisdom. From the very first the new sovereign showed rare appreciation of the enormous responsibilities of his position. In his address, penned at Windsor Castle, to his people "beyond the seas," he paid a warm and just tribute to his revered mother and then declare, "It will be my constant endeavor to follow the great example bequeathed to me, and I will, with God's blessing, solemnly work for the promotion of the common welfare and security of the great Empire over which I have now been called to reign."

The great time-piece of eternity has ticked away, all too soon, the moments of his nine years reign. But the king was never unmindful of his vow, and when a few days ago the summons of the death angel came to him in the silent chamber within the walls of the same building where his eyes first saw the light, King Edward the Seventh could say, "Well, it is all over, but I think I have done my duty." God's finger touched him and he slept. Over his bier in Westminster, during the last few days, four millions of his people looked sadly and for the last time upon his peaceful face, and England confessed that he had done his duty—done it bravely and well. And today the young nations across the sea join the empire's sorrow, and the wide world mourns its peace-maker and friend.

I have said that when Edward VII. ascended the throne he possessed rare appreciation of the enormous responsibilities of his position. There are those who may question whether the position of a constitutional sovereign in a limited monarchy does, after all, involve very great responsibility. To this I reply that every man is responsible to his fellow man and to his God for the use he makes of his talents and his opportunities.

Owing to his natural gifts and training the king was pre-eminent among public men in the wealth and breadth of his knowledge of statecraft. In the nation's foreign policy he was trusted as no other living man was trusted. Glance for a moment with me at the international situation when he ascended the throne. Lord Salisbury's policy of "splendid isolation" had gone too far, and Britain found herself without allies, in the face of possible enemies. Always a persona grata with the people across the channel, the king conciliated France and the old, but long unfamiliar, cry of Vive le Roi rang through the streets of Paris as Edward the Seventh and the President of the Republic embraced each other before the eyes of Europe and the world. Wonderful to relate a traditional enmity, centuries old, was replaced in a day by the entente cordiale. He performed a like service in respect of Spain, Italy and Portugal. Latterly, to complete the work, he has promoted a better understanding with Russia, despite her bitter memories of the Japanese war. And had the czar but taken his uncle's advice there is little reason to doubt he would today occupy a far more secure position in the affections of his people. The king also earned the gratitude of the Young Turks and to the last he bent his efforts to disperse the cloud of suspicion that overhung Anglo-German relations. His friendship for the United States was proverbial, and its representatives were always honored at the court. International alignments today bear every where the trace of his master hand. And bearing in mind the fact that for centuries France and England were hereditary foes, it is a remarkable tribute to the late sovereign that Paris has been moved scarce less than London by his sudden end.

Time will not admit of any adequate attempt to describe the lively interest displayed by the king and members of his household in the domestic life of the people and in all that tended to advance their moral and social welfare. His thoughtful kindly heart was always open to the cry of distress and it may be said of him as of his royal mother, "He wrought his people lasting good."

Whether, had his life been spared, the late king could have avoided making enemies in dealing with the political problems that are now in the air, is a question that can never be answered. At the time of his death there was looming up the possibility of a deadlock between the lords and the commons which perhaps not even another general election would solve, and the situation might eventually be such as to paralyze all legislation. The question which all were asking, therefore, was, what would, or could the king do? We are unaware what he would have done because, after his unbroken custom, he has given not the faintest hint. But we do know what he could do. It would very much surprise some people if they knew what the king might do under the present laws of the realm. He could, for example, disband the army, sell all our ships of war and naval stores, make—if he were so disposed—every citizen in the United Kingdom, male or female, a peer! and this without the authority of parliament. Whether King Edward could have, by his influence and authority, restrained the extremists on either side, and have led the country to reforms in accord with the spirit of the age without pandering to communism, is a question that will never be answered. He has gone, where men can neither praise nor blame, to render account of himself to the King of Kings. He lays down the burden of his short but eventful reign to enter upon the great untried future in a world where time is uncounted and where centuries pass unmarked.

"Every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Soldiers of the King! Your summons to render your solemn account one day before the King of Kings will be imperative. You will have no choice but to obey, once the angel of death shall call you. Have you considered what it will be to appear personally before God, whose all-seeing eye will at a glance read your soul, see all that is or ever has been there? "Who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?"

To render an account is not a pleasant task to a man who through his own folly finds himself a bankrupt. His position how pitiable! The accounts are complicated, the penalties of breach of trust are heavy. In the many lamentable failures which human courts investigate what efforts there often are to make the best of a bad business. Positive deception is practiced, evasive answers given, immense ingenuity displayed in avoiding the plain naked truth. But in the day of judgment there will be no such possibility for men. God will render unto every man according to his work. In the life that now is every man lives in some respects alone; his dearest friend is not admitted beyond a certain point into the sanctuary of his soul. In every human heart there are things we would all be ashamed to confess to our nearest friends, and the instinct of the human soul when brought into contact with the Divine Being is that which led St. Peter in the presence of his Master to exclaim, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

In the hour of our solemn account may we be able to say, with him whose memory we today revere, "I hope that I have done my duty," and may Christ deliver us all from death eternal.

To you my brothers there rings out one clear call today—the call to duty. As loyal soldiers and as citizens we ask you to be brave and true. True to yourselves, your country and your God. The greatness of a nation consists not so much in a grand historic past as in the men and women it is producing today. The permanency of the British Empire depends upon the fidelity of its people to righteousness. The country needs men that are true in word and deed, brave, sober, temperate, clean, to whom goodness is of greater importance than wealth or knowledge.

The sons of Canada responded a few years ago to the call to fight for queen and country, and some of those who went forth came not back. Their bodies rest on the banks of the Modder river in South Africa, and we have their names upon the walls of the church in which we are today assembled. The founders of this city and the builders of the first church which stood upon this spot took a manly stand in behalf of the cause of a united empire a century and a quarter ago. In following the path that seemed to them the path of duty, they risked and lost their all and were driven out to build this city on the rugged rocks above which there still waved the flag they loved. The cause of imperial unity, for which both our fathers and our sons have bled, has an inspiration for many of us today. The young sister nations rallied around the mother country in the hour of her need in a way that astonished the world. And these young nationalities are still calling over the sea:

"Shall we not, through good and ill,
Cleave to one another still,
One life, one flag, one fleet, one throne,
And God guard all."

I doubt not that there are many men assembled here today who, if need be, would fight and die for their country as their forefathers did. But it is even nobler for a man to live for his country in the same sense that Edward the Seventh lived for the nation.

Whether it be your part, my brothers, to stand for your country upon the field of battle or not, remember that there is no victory so glorious as that which a man gains over himself; no courage like that courage which fights manfully under the banner of Christ against the devil, the world and the flesh, and every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Before we part today let us think for a moment of the young king who has just stood beside the tomb of his father and friend, and who now in no spirit of elation, but in sadness and sorrow, takes up the burden of the day with an earnest sense of duty. And let us pray that as his days so may both his strength and his insight be, for the task to which he is called is no easy one.

"Father in Thy gracious keeping.
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping."

Many Attend Verna Brown's Funeral.

Dorchester, N. B., May 20—(Special)—The funeral of Verna Brown, the unfortunate young girl who was burned to death on Wednesday, took place today and was one of the largest seen here in many years. The penitentiary officers marched in a body. The services, at the Presbyterian church and the grave, were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Dickie. The parents of the dead girl belonged to Hants county (N. S.)

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FARM TOPICS

HOW TO MAKE SIMPLE STILL.

A Contrivance to Distill Water Is Made From a Test Tube, Some Hose and a Bottle.

A still to distill water can be made from a test tube, some heavy rubber hose and an ordinary bottle. Secure a stopper for the test tube, and bore a hole through the center, into which fit a small hollow tube. The bottle is also fitted with a stopper containing a hollow tube, and both bottle and test tube connected with a hollow rubber tube. The test tube is partially filled with water and supported or held over an alcohol lamp. The bottle should stand in a basin of cold water. When the water in the test tube begins to boil the steam passes over to the bottle, where it condenses. The basin should be supplied with cold water as fast as it begins to get warm. The rubber tube will not stand the heat very long and if the still is to be used several times a metal tube should be supplied to connect the test tube and bottle.

Distilling Water.

NOVELTY IN SAFETY RAZOR.

Latest Improvement Can Be Manipulated Same as Old-Fashioned Unprotected Blade.

The introduction of the safety razor was undoubtedly welcomed by a great many men who found it impossible to shave with the old-fashioned razor without cutting their face. In direct variance with this is the regular fact that those men who formerly used the old-fashioned razor successfully were unable to shave with the safety razor without injuring the face. The difference in the methods of handling the two razors readily accounts for this. A Reading man became acquainted with the fact, and accordingly designed the safety razor shown here, which in form closely resembles the old-fashioned razor, and is manipulated in mostly the same manner. A guard is provided, as in the ordinary safety razor, which is attached directly to the handle, the blade of the razor being detachable, and having two sharp edges. The guard is also double-edged, to protect both edges of the blade. Obviously, as one edge becomes dull the other can be brought into use, and when both are dull an entirely new blade substituted.

Used Same as Old-Style Razor.

Value of Pigeon Post.

The pigeon post is proving a valuable adjunct of civilization, even in these days of fast trains and steamships and wireless telegraphy. The isolated lighthouse of Maatsuyker island is 75 miles southwest from Hobart, Tasmania, in a direct line and 90 miles by steamer, and since January 21, 1908, 12 homing pigeons have kept up communication with the mainland, three being regularly liberated every three weeks. The first message left the lighthouse at ten a. m. reaching Hobart at 1:30 p. m. The service has been generally satisfactory, though not all messages have reached their destination; and it probably saved the life of an assistant at the lighthouse, as an urgent message brought much-needed medical relief from Hobart in 12 hours.

To Prevent Boiler Scale.

Boiler scale is prevented in the process of F. A. Lart, an English experimenter, by simply passing through the working boiler the moderate current of any ordinary dry or wet electrochemical primary battery. The current hastens the deposition of solids in mechanical suspension and the precipitation of those in chemical solution, and the resulting mud contains only loose particles of the lime, magnesia or other impurities from the water. Tests are suggested to determine the working value of this process.

Changes in Comet.

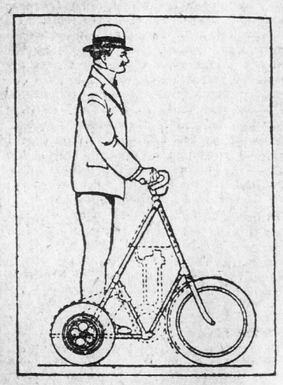
The changes in progress in a comet are now shown on a screen in moving pictures. Morehouse's comet was favorably situated for observation in England during last autumn, and as this body gave an unusual opportunity for studying changes the astronomer royal had photographs made at frequent intervals so as to obtain a cinematograph record. One series shows the alterations that took place in a period of about nine hours.

INDUSTRY AND MECHANICS

NOVEL MEANS OF LOCOMOTION

Motorcycle with Rider Standing on a Foot Platform Between the Rear Wheels.

In the accompanying illustration is shown the motorcycle of the future. One that is easily handled, operated and steered. The two-wheel motorcycles now in use are entirely too cumbersome and unwieldy to give good service, whereas the three-wheeled vehicles overcome these faults. The operator is shown between the rear wheels on a small platform carried by the drop frame. In front of the foot platform is the motor, having connections with the rear wheels. The steering apparatus is connected directly with the front wheel, so that it can be conveniently manipulated. Levers for regulating the speed are also close to the hand while additional clutches, operating the brakes, are adjacent to the foot. For speed and comfort for short distance riding this motorcycle will in all probability be found superior to the ordinary motorcycle.



Three-Wheel Motorcycle.

FATE OF A PERPETUAL CLOCK

Its Curious Mechanism and Construction and Singular Disappearance After Reaching China.

In the eighteenth century an ingenious jeweler named John Cox of Shoe Lane, London, constructed a clock which was rendered perpetual by a cleverly contrived attachment which utilized the rise and fall of the barometer to supply the necessary energy.

The movement of the mercury actuated a cogwheel in such a manner that whether the mercury rose or fell the wheel always revolved in the same direction and kept the weights that supplied the movement of the clock always wound up. The barometer bulb dipped into a mercury cistern. The cistern hung attached to the extremities of two rockers, to the left end of one and the right end of the other.

The bulb was similarly attached to the other extremities of the rockers, which are thus moved every time there is a change in the amount of mercury in bulb and cistern respectively. The rockers actuated a vertical ratchet, and the teeth were so arranged that the wheel they controlled could only move in one direction, whether the ratchet ascended or descended.

The clock itself was an ordinary one, but of very strong and superior workmanship, and was jeweled with diamonds at every bearing, the whole being inclosed in a glass case which while it excluded dust, displayed the entire mechanism. The fate of Cox's clock was brought to light in a work called "Travels in China," published in 1804 and written by John Barrow.

In this book it is stated that in the list of presents carried by "the late Dutch ambassador" were "two grand pieces of machinery that were part of the curious museum of Cox." One of these apparently was this perpetual clock, and it was taken by the Dutch embassy to China, where in the journey from Canton to Peking both the instruments suffered some slight damage. Efforts were made to repair them at Peking, but on leaving the capital it was discovered that the Chinese Prime Minister Ho-tchang-tong had substituted two other clocks of very inferior workmanship and had reserved Cox's mechanism for himself.

Nonductile Metals.

A difficulty in making filaments of nonductile metals, like tungsten, has been ingeniously overcome in a new patented process of the Siemens-Halske firm of Germany. The tungsten or other filament metal is inclosed in a thin coating of ductile metal, and the whole is drawn through a die-plate until the required fineness is reached. The coated filament, attached to a conducting support, is then mounted in the lamp bulb. The air is exhausted from the bulb, and an electric current is turned on, when the heat quickly drives off the ductile metal, leaving the refractory filament.

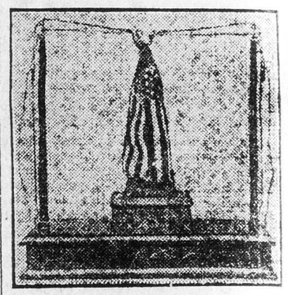
Electricity in Fertilizing Industry.

Several representatives from European concerns interested in the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilizer from the air are in this country looking for options on good water power for hydro-electric development in connection with the fertilizing industry.

ELECTRIC CURRENT TO UNVEIL

Ensures Removal of Drapery Without Fear of Ludicrous Failure and Embarrassment.

The unveiling of a statue under ordinary circumstances is a very impressive occasion, but it is frequently rendered ludicrous by a failure at a very critical moment. Often the drapery which is used to hide the lines of the memorial refuses to respond to the tugs and pulls given at the cords which were designed to draw the fabric away. This sort of mishap is no less embarrassing than when the material falls of its own accord in advance of the set time, says George J. Jones in Scientific American. Having witnessed several such accidents, an electrical engineer employed in the department of the interior at Washington, set about some time ago to devise some method of performing this operation by the use of the electrical current, so as to render such occasions free from accidents. Recently he announced the completion of his self-assumed task.



The Statue Covered.

The scheme calls for the erection of two poles placed on either side of the monument with a stout wire cable stretched from top to top. The ends of the cable pass down the side of one pole and are secured near the bottom. Held slightly away from the pole, the cable acts as a guide for counterweights. Mounted on the cable are two swivel pulleys, each supporting a wooden staff balanced therefrom. Flags are generally made use of for the purpose of hiding the lines of the statue until such time as it is desired to reveal them to the assemblage, and in the the electrical process the bunting is secured from these sticks. The flags hanging from the sticks completely encircle the statue. The lengthwise edges of the flags are supplied with small magnets and corresponding armatures, the magnets being connected in series, and the current from a few batteries is sufficient to hold the edges of the flags together, even in the face of a strong wind. This current is conveyed through a small insulated wire. When all is ready one of a pair of touch-buttons, placed at a convenient point, is pressed. The flags open like a book, and for a few seconds they remain as an effective background to the memorial. The second button is then pressed, and the flags move off under the action of the weights, toward the poles, leaving a free and unobstructed view of the statue.

The Statue Unveiled.

The inventor of this scheme had an ambitious desire to put the scheme to a severe test at the unveiling of the Franklin statue in Paris. He submitted a plan to the American ambassador. His suggestion was that the ceremony be made a double one, the actual pressing of the button being done at Philadelphia, Pa., at the meeting of the American Philosophical society, by some distinguished electrician who might attend the gathering or by some of the descendants of Benjamin Franklin, several of whom are still residing in the city. There was not sufficient time, however, to make the necessary arrangements, which would require much correspondence.

To Determine the Kind of Current.

At times it is necessary to know whether the current in a circuit is alternating or direct, and as the generator may be miles away at the other end of the line an easy method of determining this on the spot is desirable. A reader of Popular Electricity suggests the following method: Hold a small magnet near an incandescent lamp burning on the circuit. If the current is alternating the filament will vibrate. If it is direct the filament will bend slightly toward the magnet but will not vibrate.

North Pole Expeditions.

Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, England, Russia, Sweden and the United States were, in 1908, represented among the 12 expeditions which were struggling toward the North pole. Eight leaders were veterans—Peary and Cook of the United States, Bernier of Canada, Erichsen and Rasmussen of Denmark, Charcot of France, Shackelton of England and Geer of Sweden.