

While it is not a good plan to be too optimistic, optimism is surely preferable to pessimism. It can do no harm, and it may ultimately prove to be a wise course, to proceed in this matter, as though we were sure of all the financial returns we could desire.

It therefore seems to me proper upon this occasion to give Mr. E. A. Selfridge some account of the past history of the Association, and what the rights of his son are in the matter. It is more especially necessary to do this, because, by our original article of organization, the Association comes to an end on the 30th day of September, 1904, that is in a few days, unless other plans are unanimously approved by the members.

Now the death of Lieut. Selfridge renders it impossible to obtain unanimous action on the part of all the interests involved, without the aid of Mr. E. A. Selfridge, as the representative of the interests of our deceased member.

It seems therefore wise that we should take advantage of the presence of Mr. Selfridge in Washington to have a special meeting of the Association to consult with him, and obtain his vote in place of that of his son, Thomas E. Selfridge, on matters requiring unanimous approval by all the interests concerned.

Now in regard to the origin of the Association. You know that as the results of my experiments with large tetrahedral structures, I was very anxious to carry on the work to the point of trying the experiment of propelling one of these structures by its own motive power to carry a man, and make