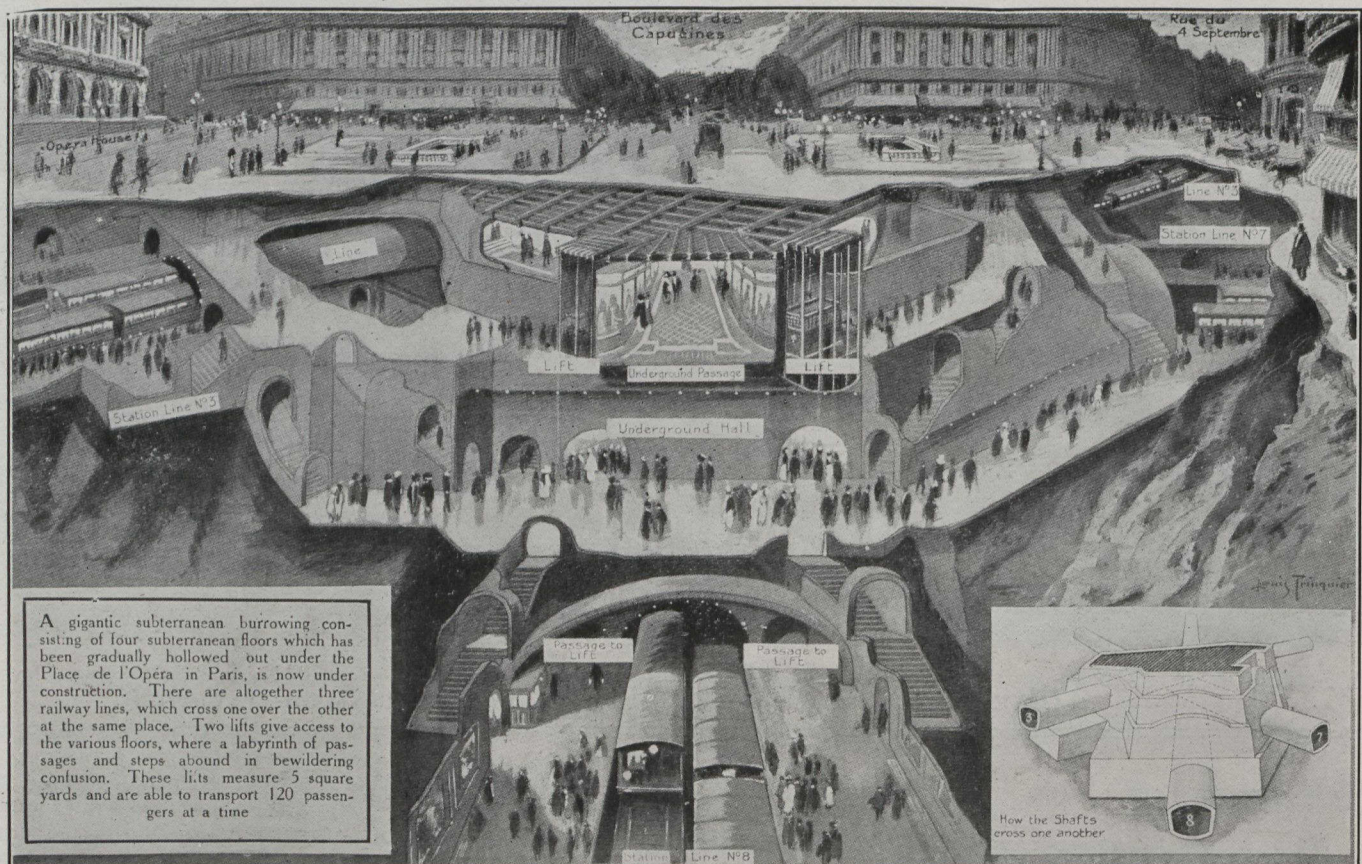




Capitol Destroyed by Fire

On the morning of March 29th, fire was discovered in the New York State Capitol at Albany, and although great efforts were made to save it, the building was seriously damaged, many important documents and books being lost in the flames. This photograph was taken early on the morning of the fire and shows the firemen playing on the southwest corner of the building looking south. This was the most costly legislative building in America, the bills for its construction amounting to twenty-seven million dollars. The loss is estimated at four million dollars.

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A gigantic subterranean burrowing consisting of four subterranean floors which has been gradually hollowed out under the Place de l'Opéra in Paris, is now under construction. There are altogether three railway lines, which cross one over the other at the same place. Two lifts give access to the various floors, where a labyrinth of passages and steps abound in bewildering confusion. These lifts measure 5 square yards and are able to transport 120 passengers at a time.

Human Moles

It is not so many years since to get about Paris was an experience to be remembered. One either travelled on an omnibus and paid extra to go inside, or else by "fiacre" with the practical certainty of the rakish-looking "cocher" demanding considerably more than he had earned and giving a large amount of bad money in the change. Paris, like London and New York, is now delving underground to settle its transportation difficulties with the result that the beautiful Place de l'Opéra, around which so many tourists gather in the summer, is now no longer supported on Mother Earth but upon huge girders covering a veritable network of subways as shown in the striking picture above.

—The Spheres