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THE STAR, ST. JOHN N. B. THURSDAY, AUGUST 12 1909

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RIVALS IN WAITING.

Walter Wellman, who for the past four or five years has been advertising himself and the Chicago Record-Herald, by means of a balloon alleged to have been constructed for polar exploration, has now a formidable rival. Count Zeppelin is credited with the announcement—though in all probability it has emanated from officious friends—that he will essay a northern voyage in the near future. Whatever may have been the doubts with which Mr. Wellman's announcement was received, coming as it did from one entirely unskilled in aeronautics and almost wholly inexperienced in Arctic navigation, there is a tendency to look upon the Zeppelin plan in a rather more serious light, especially as the famous German scientist needs no more publicity than is his due by reason of his past successes.

Assuming that the announcement of last summer's plans comes from Count Zeppelin himself, it is his intention not at first to seek the pole but to engage in a series of scientific observation trips in northern latitudes. For this purpose he will construct an improved airship, and next summer will proceed to Cross Bay on the island of Spitzbergen, which place he has selected as his base of operations. From Cross Bay he will make about three or four short trips, especially for the purpose of ascertaining the adaptability and utility of the airship in low temperatures. If it is found that the balloon can be successfully manipulated during extended flights, he will attempt a northward voyage.

In these plans the caution of the scientist as opposed to the rashness of the adventurer is manifest. Mr. Wellman, ignorant alike of airships and Arctic conditions, set out a year ago on his widely heralded jaunt. Naturally he ran into a storm. The trip was a failure at the very start, and although there has been much talk of another voyage it does not appear that the Chicago discoverer has any great enthusiasm left about finding the pole.

From Cross Bay, which Count Zeppelin has named as his starting point, the distance to the pole is eight hundred miles. With his present airship the Count has covered that distance in thirty-seven hours, and came down because there was no particular reason why he should remain aloft any longer. He might have done five times the distance, but the flight was of sufficient duration to prove all he desired to know at that time about staying qualities of his balloon. With the improvements he is now making, the only doubtful questions are the effect of low temperatures and the possibility of encountering favorable weather conditions in the north. His projected trip will be watched with universal interest, and since the pathway to the pole seems to be beyond the compass of overland explorers, it may be that the problem of the north awaits an aerial solution. If so, it is fitting that Count Zeppelin, who has given his lifetime and his fortune to this branch of science, should add to an honorable and successful career the crowning glory of Arctic conquest.

TREATING THE STREETS.

No wonder the aldermen are bothered about what to do with the streets. Montreal and Toronto have both tried the same kind of treatment for keeping down the dust and making a smooth and lasting surface, and the results have been entirely different. The Montreal Veterans of recent date contains an interesting account of experiments which have been attempted in that city and vicinity in applying to the surface of the roads material used satisfactorily elsewhere. The Automobile Club of Montreal originated the project to oil a certain stretch of turnpike, and for a while this plan appeared to be a success. Nothing what had been done the road department resolved to apply the same cure in the streets of the city, and a newly macadamized section of the city was given a coating of oil and tar. This appeared very satisfactory to the eye, but was unsatisfactory to the nose, yet the people were willing to submit to the insult of their olfactory nerves under the delusion that the streets would be free from dust. In about three weeks the watering carts resumed their regular trips. Later another experiment was tried in which the material used was a soluble chloride dissolved in water and sprinkled with the ordinary watering car. This, when it dried, was supposed to attract moisture from the atmosphere and keep the surface of the road damp, so that no dust could rise. It did for a day or two, then disappeared.

In Toronto the plan of oiling macadamized streets with what is known as crude petroleum residue—a by-product of the distillation of petroleum—was adopted. This has been on the streets for upwards of two months and appears to be giving satisfaction. Indeed

it is intimated that the system will be adopted permanently by the city. This oil, which is largely a waste product, is very cheap, being procured at four cents a gallon. It is put on the streets undiluted by means of the watering cart. Some 20,000 gallons have been used and have covered 40 per cent of the macadamized streets of the city. The records indicate that the oiling has resulted in a saving of 25 per cent. from what the regular watering would have cost, as nine watering wagons, costing \$30 per week on an average, have been dispensed with. As for the odor from the use of oil, it is stated that this disappears at the end of twenty-four hours.

In Montreal oil has been a failure.

In Toronto it is declared a success.

"You pay your money and you take your choice."

50,000 MOORS ARE ENCAPMED AT MELILLA

Overflow of River Costs Fourteen Lives.

Clyde Line Steamer Sinks C. Q. D. Mesage—Postal Clerks in Session—Tag Lands Survivors.

MELILLA, Morocco, Aug. 11.—Observations from a balloon have revealed the fact that the Moors number 50,000 men who have been distributed in such a manner as to make their position a strong one. As a consequence General Marina has postponed his advance against the tribesmen until the railroad track is completed as far as Alaioun.

Cannonading continues at Alhucenas, five miles southeast here, Cape Morro and at Penon de la Goma. The enemy is suffering heavy losses, but there have been no casualties in the Spanish ranks.

MONTEIRY, Mexico, Aug. 11.—Fourteen lives are known to have been lost as the result of the overflow of the Santa Catarina River last night. BIAFORT, N. C., Aug. 11.—The tugboat "Clyde Line" for Charleston and Jacksonville, from New York, broke her tall shaft this afternoon at 3:45 o'clock and reported by wireless to this place that she was drifting helplessly. The ship at the time she flashed her "C. Q. D." was 21 miles southwest of Diamond Shoals Lightship.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug. 11.—At the fourteenth annual meeting of the United States Postal Convention, Association today at Lighthouse Point, A. C. Brodick, of Waltham, Mass., was chosen president, and John C. Cushing, of New Haven, secretary-treasurer. Among the vice presidents were Royal B. Bolton, of Portland, Me.

NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—The body of the actor, who was killed here this week, left New York tonight in a special car, accompanied by a number of his relatives and friends for Bangor, Me. It will be interred tomorrow near his birthplace at Bucksport, Me.

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CANADIAN NEWS

MONTEIRY, Aug. 11.—A serious outbreak of scarlet fever is reported from Lehigh where eighteen cases are now quarantined in a house. One occurred today, a child of two years.

It is reported by the health authorities that the epidemic is suspected to have been caused by the neglect of a doctor to report a case of scarlet fever last May, with the result that the house was neither quarantined nor fumigated. An investigation is being held and if it is found to be the case criminal action will follow.

Deceased has been in poor health for some time, and it is supposed that he became dependent. During Monday afternoon he was about the village conversing with friends, and asked some of them if they would bury him, as he was going to die right away. They laughed at him, not thinking that he had any intention of doing was to hang himself.

During the evening Mrs. Peter Noles had occasion to visit the house where deceased lived alone, and was horrified to find him dead in a bed room upstairs. A rope was found, which looked as if his original intention was to hang himself.

SUNLIGHT SOAP

The finest fabric is not too delicate to be safely washed with Sunlight Soap. When other soaps have injured your linens and faded the coloured things, remember the word Sunlight.

MOST VALUABLE WATER POWER ON THE CONTINENT

The evidence taken yesterday before J. N. Winslow, the commissioner appointed to take evidence in the matter of the appropriation of land at Grand Falls by the Grand Falls Power Company, contained some very interesting matter. The session was enlivened by frequent clashes between counsel.

Sir William Van Horne was the chief witness at the afternoon session. His evidence he stated the Grand Falls was the most valuable water power on the continent on account of its proximity to warm-water ports and to enormous timber areas and also on account of the cheapness with which power could be developed.

H. S. Holt, C. E., was the first witness in the afternoon. He stated that the value of water power depended upon its market. The cost of water power in the witness's opinion varied from \$30 per horse power to \$40.

Mr. Rice was again called to the stand in the afternoon. In answer to Mr. Powell's question he stated that he had estimated the potential horse power at Grand Falls and described the steps he had taken to arrive at his estimate. The measurement had been taken September 16, 1908, when the river was at the lowest point within his memory. The power house would be near the site of the old grist mill and the water would be conveyed in a steel flume. The estimate of 24,000 horse power made a maximum estimate of 80,000 horse power with a head of 54 feet. Witness was thinking of consuming 65,000 horse power in a pulp mill. The output of such a mill would be 400 tons per day. It would take a cord and two-thirds to make a ton of air dried ground pulp. To make sulphite pulp it would take double the quantity of wood.

Mr. Powell—"Are you aware that it would take 100,000,000 feet of lumber to supply your mill in a year on your own calculation?"

Mr. Taylor—"I think your figures are wrong. You're speaking of sulphite pulp, the witness is not."

Mr. Powell—"But you will have to have a sulphite pulp mill."

Witness—"Yes, we will."

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