

## BALLOONING AN AGES-OLD DREAM OF WINGLESS MAN

Adventures of Three Naval Aeronauts in Northern Canada Recall Numerous Historic Attempts of Man to Fulfill Ancient Feeling He Would Have Wings Some Day—Aviation History

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—"The adventures of three naval aeronauts, and the international interest in their safe return from the frozen Canadian north, recall numerous historic attempts of man to fulfill for himself on earth the ages-old feeling that he would have wings some day," says a bulletin from the headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"These American birdmen who got their noses and ears nipped by the cold performed no such feat as did Daedalus, who, some thousands of years ago in the ages of myths, flew near enough to the sun to melt the wax on his wings. Daedalus' experiment and the attempted flight of a certain monk called Elmerus, who, John Wilkins, one of the founders of the Royal society in England, tells us flew for a distance of more than an eighth of a mile from a town in Spain, are sufficient evidence, however, to accord to aviation the palm for being the oldest of the flying arts."

"Ballooning though less romantic in its appeal and decidedly more commonplace and placid looking in its appearance may perhaps be considered the John the Baptist of the arts as they are practiced today, as its progress has been steadily on the upgrade since Roger Bacon, back in the 13th century, propounded the theory that a hollow globe of very thin metal filled with ethereal air or liquid fire, would float upward on the atmosphere."

**Morning Dew as Filler**

"From that day priests, philosophers and scientists put forward the idea that a light sphere could be made to rise and float in the upper atmosphere. Almost every conceivable thing was suggested for filling these balloons. One of the most amusing was the morning dew, since that substance, according to their suppositions, was shed by the stars during the night and would be drawn back to heaven in the day by the heat of the sun."

"As the result of watching the clouds the brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier, of Annonay, France, in 1782, invented the first real balloon. They concluded that if the vapor of the clouds could hang suspended in the upper air a large bag filled with such a vapor might rise and drift about as the clouds do."

"Another interesting story is told about the Montgolfier brothers originating the idea. They were watching the smoke-wreaths curl upward from their fire, when one of them began wondering if the smoke could not carry other things up with it too. In the enthusiasm of the moment they made a small fire on a little tin tray and held a large paper bag over it. With delight they watched the bag fill out and try to rise. A neighbor, a widow lady, seeing the smoke issuing from their window and fearing that the house was on fire, went running into the room. She suggested they attach the tray to the bag, and the immediate result was that the bag rose to the ceiling."

**It Flew, They Didn't Know Why**

"After several private try-outs they announced a public ascent of a balloon on June 5, 1783, and many spectators gathered to see this sphere, 105 feet in circumference, which the inventors inflated with the hot air from burning straw, rise high in the air and float off for about one and a half miles. The brothers believed for quite a while that they had hit upon some peculiar quality in the straw which had lifting properties and did not realize until later that their wonder ball had risen only because of the lightness of heated air. But they made the balloon a reality."

"From this time forward the physicists in France and elsewhere took seriously this infant invention which had suddenly made its appearance in

their midst. Subscriptions were taken up to further the project, the Roberts brothers constructed a balloon, the noted scientist, Charles, conceived the idea of filling it with hydrogen, and a day for the ascent was set. The crowd that gathered was great and curious and so interfered with the operations that the balloon had to be moved to another place, but the eager throng, not to be outdone, learned its whereabouts and were there to see the performance. The sphere rose 3,000 feet in the air amid the rain, which some had thought would be an obstacle, to the wild enthusiasm of the spectators."

**Experiment at Versailles**

"In 1783 Joseph Montgolfier repeated his experiment before the king, queen and court at Versailles. The first living creatures to take a balloon trip went up on that day. A sheep, a duck and a cock soared majestically into the air with the ornate balloon and descended after eight minutes about two miles away. The only injury suffered by any of them was a kick on the wing which the sheep gave the cock. Later on in that same year the gallant Pilatre de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes made the first trip taken by persons in a free balloon. From that time 'sounding' the skies became a science. Lunardi started Great Britain with his daring trips. It is said that when he soared into vision the king ordered a conference with his ministers and a court of justice acquitted a criminal in order that all persons present might watch him."

"The R-24, when it traveled 3,130 miles in a little over 108 hours, certainly put a crimp into world records of ten years ago which at that time read, 'No balloon voyage has yet been made of a length comparable to the breadth of the Atlantic.' Only two flights exceeding 1,000 miles were then on record—those of John Wise from Louis to Henderson, New York, and Count Henry de la Vaulx from Paris to Korosticheff in Russia."

"Among the notable flights made in balloons the daring attempt of Salomon Andree and two companions, in 1897, to reach the north pole should have an honored place. They left Spitzbergen at a point 600 miles from the pole on July 11. The only records concerning the explorers later than that are messages picked up in two floating buoys."

### DEBTS OF WORLD'S NATIONS REACH STAGGERING TOTAL

O. P. Austin, of the National City bank of New York, declares that the national debts of the nations now amount to the staggering sum of \$306,621,699,000. The paper currency of the nations, including Russia, now amounts to \$82,751,000,000, according to the same authority.

In 1914, before the World war, the national debts amounted to \$43,889,000,000 and the paper currency totalled only \$7,527,000,000.

The issue of paper currency by the soviet government of Russia is estimated at \$34,000,000,000.

The financial authority Cadmus asserts that only 5 per cent of gold is behind the paper money of Europe.

### IS PROHIBITION RESPONSIBLE FOR DRUG BUSINESS GROWTH

Is prohibition responsible for big growth in the drug business in the United States?

Drugs, out of a long list of business groups, stand alone as the only one showing a jump in volume of sales and future contracts.

Drug business is rapidly expanding, while other lines have been under depression, consequent to price readjust-

ments, the federal reserve board said, in a survey of the business field.

Whiskey sales to retail druggists, by wholesalers legally permitted to withdraw liquor in huge amounts from bond and resell to the trade, account for part of the increase in drug business, officials said. In fact, they figured it is responsible for a very substantial amount of this increase.

The board had no figures to show what proportion of the 28,000,000 gallons withdrawn last year went into "drug channels," but admittedly it was large. No figures were separately compiled to indicate the growth in the narcotic trade, but treasury reports from various collectors' districts indicated that heavier revenues are coming in from that source, accounting in part, possibly for some of the heavier business reported by the wholesale drug dealers.

### ALEXANDER'S CHAUFFEUR SUICIDES ON ACCOUNT GRIEF

ATHENS, Jan. 10.—(Correspondence Associated Press).—The late King Alexander's chauffeur, Mitsos Dimitriadis, has committed suicide from grief over the death of the king, which, it will be recalled, was the result of a monkey's bite.

Mitsos was King Alexander's inseparable companion on all his automobile rides and motoring was the king's fad. Alexander was, perhaps, the most affable sovereign in Europe and had a talent of making everybody feel at home. He was always very kind to all the members of his household, but seemed more strongly attached to Mitsos than to any of the others.

When Alexander felt death approaching he called Mitsos to his bedside and gave him a small gold cross which the king had worn all his life. After the king's death, Mitsos became inconsolable. The other night while contemplating a photograph of the king he shot himself. A wreath sent by Madame Manos, King Alexander's widow, was one of the floral offerings at his funeral.

### STUDENTS LIKE BOXING

"Professor" Edward Shevlin, Dartmouth college instructor in boxing, has at present 70 students attending his classes in the manly art of self-defense. Instruction is given every afternoon. A boxing tournament is to be held later in the season.

### PAPER CONTAINERS FOR GAS

Cone-shaped paper containers that also serve as funnels have been invented for the purpose of carrying fuel to automobiles.

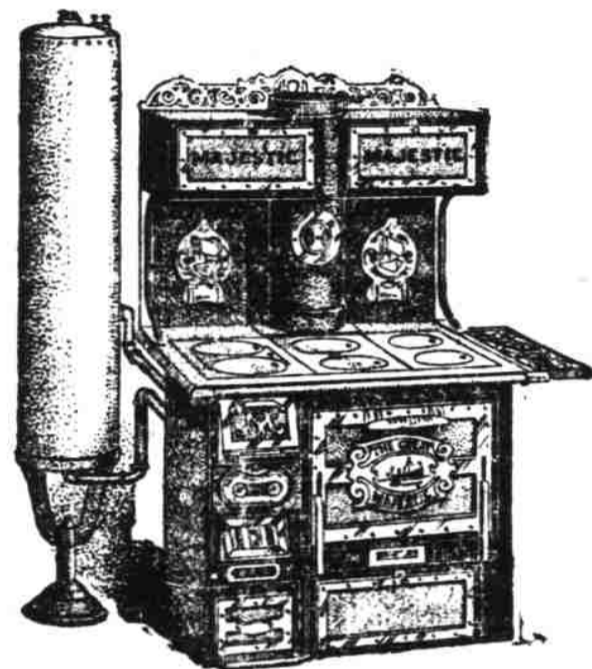
"They WORK while you sleep"



You are bilious, constipated, head-achy, full of cold, unstrung. Your meals don't fit—breath is bad, skin sallow. Take one or two Cascarets tonight for your liver and bowels and wake up clear, rosy and cheerful. No griping—no inconvenience. Children love Cascarets too. 10, 25, 50 cents.—(Adv.)

# Big Reduction!!

## \$30.00 Decline on all Great Majestic Family Ranges



**N. J. JACOBI HARDWARE CO.**

IN a letter just received from the Majestic Manufacturing Company, we have been instructed to reduce prices on all MAJESTIC FAMILY RANGES.

This decline is an extraordinary effort on the part of the manufacturers and ourselves to stabilize business in general.

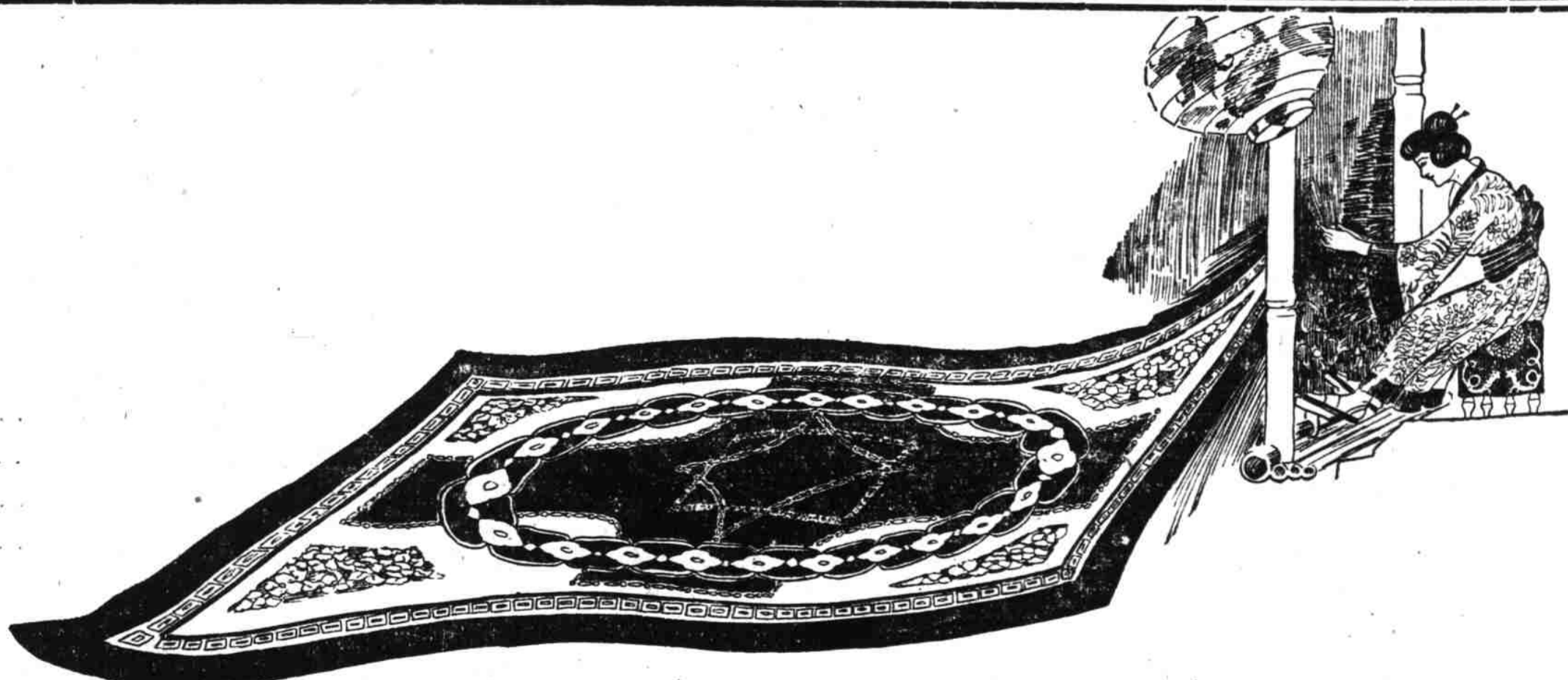
Through co-operation of Majestic Dealers and the factory this exceptional decline was decided on at this time, rather than gradual reductions throughout the year.

Those familiar with continued high costs of iron and labor, will wonder how this great reduction can be made now, but some one had to take the initiative, and we are proud to announce that the Majestic people are setting the pace.

The Majestic Manufacturing Company and the Majestic dealers throughout the United States, decided to take their loss all at one time rather than string it out over the entire year 1921.

In the New Model Great Majestic we offer the highest standard of range perfection, and with this extra low price, probably lower than it will be this fall, there is no reason why your kitchen should be without one of these wonderful ranges.

Our stock is complete—take advantage of this opportunity.



## Oriental Rugs and Carpets

Can Now Be Bought In Wilmington

### Special Sale Beginning Monday Morning

At 9:00 O'clock at 122 Market Street

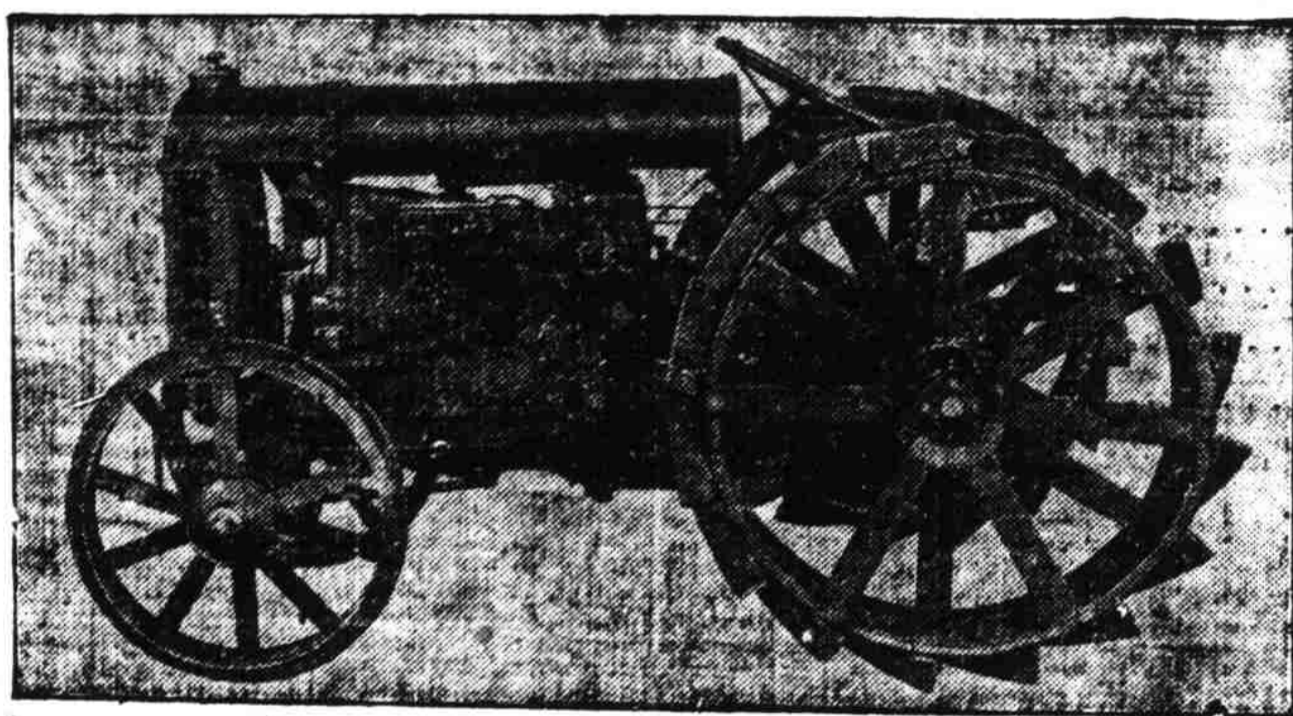
Personal selection by a native of the land where they are made. Quality, designs and weaves of the highest vegetable dyes that will appeal to those buying rugs as an investment in pleasure, satisfaction and profit.

Should any purchaser of these rugs wish to dispose of them after fifty years or more of use they will realize more than the interest on their money.

Owing to unsettled conditions in Persia, Armenia and Turkey the manufacture and distribution of rugs have been greatly curtailed. The advance of the Bolshevik hordes has practically paralyzed the industry and it is more difficult to obtain Oriental Rugs in America today than at any other time in recent years. This is an exceptional opportunity.

**JOSEPH K. FILFLY**

Importer of Oriental Rugs and Carpets  
122 Market Street



### PRICE REDUCTION

## Fordson Tractors Reduced \$165

Effective Wednesday, January 26, the price of the Fordson Tractor was reduced from \$790.00 to \$625.00, f. o. b. Detroit, Mich.

In regard to car prices we quote the following extract from a recent letter from Ford Motor Company:

"There is no change in present car prices, which, as explained in recent letter, are already at the lowest figure possible, and now, with rock bottom reached on tractor prices, any future reductions in list price of Ford cars, trucks or tractors cannot be made for an indefinite period. In fact, these big price cuts have been made in anticipation of continuous maximum production, and increases may be necessary before long if a large volume of business is not obtained."

Protect Yourself by Placing Order for Immediate Delivery  
Easy Terms If Desired

**Jones Motor Sales Company**

225-227 Market Street WILMINGTON, N. C. Telephones 725-760