

"Top of World" 50 Miles Away

Writer Gives Some Interesting Facts in Connection With Recent Aviation Feats.

OF LITTLE SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Attempts to Go Higher Than MacReady's Record-Breaking Flight Would Not Be Productive of Worthwhile Results.

Washington.—The "top of the world" still waits to be reached. Lieutenant MacReady's record-breaking fly to a height of nearly eight miles left the "ceiling of the earth" still at least forty miles away.

How near the aviator may come to what is practically the upper limit of the atmospheric layer surrounding the earth we may not know in this generation. But the meteorologist and the astronomer tell us that both Major Schroeder after his flight of 38,180 feet and Lieutenant MacReady after his 40,800 were speaking only figuratively when they spoke of having attained the "top of the earth."

Layer Fifty Miles Thick.

The layer of atmosphere, many say, is at least fifty miles thick.

Aviators now have the means of taking sufficient oxygen along with them for their engines and for themselves, and the heat that keeps their bodies from freezing. They lack only denser air to fly upon at great heights. But this, of course, they will never have.

Yet there is another solution: The faster plane capable of rising still higher on an ever-thinning ocean of air.

It will be a problem forever increasingly difficult. The higher man rises, the thinner will be the air upon which he must depend for buoyancy.

Indeed the air gets thinner even in greater proportion than the increased height of the flight. For though MacReady had risen through but one-sixth of the air cushion that cloaks the earth, he had left behind him four-fifths of the air.

From the surface of the earth, where the total pressure upon his body was fifteen tons, he had risen to a height where the pressure was but three tons. And had he gone three times as high he would have reduced the pressure to 80 pounds.

No Interest at Poles.

Any higher airplane flights than those that have been taken by these two men will have little scientific value. Their observations will give scarcely more information than that to be had from a balloon sent up with

various pieces of recording apparatus. But neither did the poles of the earth have great scientific interest. Yet men sought and attained them. And so long as the astronomer and the meteorologist make known the existence of an ocean of air beyond any called thus far, there will be a struggle to fathom its depth.

But for the present that fathoming will be done only from observation and deduction to be made upon terra firma. Among the best of the methods that are used to determine the upper limit of the blanket of air about the earth is called the "twilight method."

Twilight has been defined as the time after sunset when day seems to be continued into the night because of the sunlight that still shines upon the upper air.

It has been determined that twilight lasts until the sun is about eighteen degrees below the horizon, and with this as a known value and the radius of the earth given as 4,000 miles, it is not difficult to solve, by the methods of trigonometry, a right tri-

Woman Justice to Kiss Bridegrooms

Atlantic City, N. J.—Mrs. Cecelia Champion of Somers Point, newly elected a justice of the peace, announces she will go the marrying parsons one better. Where the parsons have made it a point to kiss the bride, Mrs. Champion says she will kiss the bridegroom. "Mrs. Champion is considered handsome and is almost thirty years old."

angle that gives 48 miles as the height of the air still dense enough to reflect the twilight rays of the sun after it has set.

On the other hand, another method gives a different result. The presence of "shooting stars" in these fall nights, calculated often to be at a height of 200 miles, would seem to indicate that there must be air even at that height, for it is the friction of the air that heats the meteor as it rushes toward the earth.—Chester E. Tucker, in Chicago Post.

There are two vipers in India, one about 20 inches long and the other about four feet long.

STATE CONDITIONS GENERALLY BETTER

REPORTS ARE RECEIVED FROM COTTON MILLS, 18 LUMBER PLANTS AND OTHERS.

HOUSING SHORTAGE IS LARGE

Report of Free Employment Bureaus Also Shows Some Improvement Over Previous Weeks.

Raleigh.

That there is a general improvement in the industrial and employment situation in North Carolina is the opinion of the "Industrial Employment Survey Bulletin" published by the Federal employment service which has been making a study of conditions in all parts of the country. The "Bulletin" draws its conclusions from reports received from 186 cotton mills, 40 lumber plants, 18 fertilizer manufacturing concerns and a number of other industries.

The publication runs about a month behind and it is reasonable to presume that conditions are somewhat better now than they were when the copy was prepared. The following notes about the different towns show that there is a large housing shortage in nearly all of the larger towns with the exception of Winston-Salem. Charlotte reports a very marked increase in building activity during the past few months with better prospects for meeting the housing shortage.

A number of the cities report that the letting of road contracts has practically absorbed all of the common and unskilled labor in their sections, while building operations are giving employment to a large number of carpenters and other skilled wood workers. The additional lettings of contracts since the reports were sent in will help conditions in other sections of the state.

The report of the six free employment bureaus for the week also shows some improvement over previous weeks. The bureaus found jobs for 326 of the 365 who were referred, which was about 95 per cent. Registrations of those seeking jobs during the week was 40 per cent more than this number, however, there being 513 applications or registrations with the different bureaus. The number of women seeking work this past week was larger than usual, 112 registering with the six bureaus. There were requests for help for only 301 people.

S. A. L. Starts Injunction.

The Seaboard Air Line, seeking to reduce the assessed value of its property for taxation in North Carolina 22 per cent, filed injunction proceedings in United States district court similar to the action already started by the Southern Atlantic Coast Line and Norfolk Southern. It probably will be heard in Greensboro with other similar cases January 1.

Two Sentences Commuted.

The sentences of J. L. Sutton and R. B. Ward, of Jackson county, sentenced to serve six months for illicit trafficking in liquor, were commuted from six months on the Haywood county roads, where they were assigned by Judge Harding, to six months in the Jackson county jail, to be worked on the courthouse grounds.

Engaged in Gainful Pursuit.

Forty-eight and six-tenths, or 895.852 of the total population over 10 years of age, 1,744,673 in North Carolina, were engaged in gainful occupations in 1920, according to the census bureau. Seventy-five and five-tenths, or 683,152 of the males over 10 years, were so engaged, and 21.9 or 202,709 of the females.

C. E. Waddell on Health Board. Charles E. Waddell, of Asheville, succeeds Col. J. L. Ludlow of Winston-Salem as a member of the state board of health, according to an announcement from the governor's office.

Asks to Abandon Short Line.

The North Carolina corporation commission, acting for the interstate commerce commission from the Norfolk Southern railroad asking permission to abandon its branch line between Carthage and Pinehurst, a distance of about 12 miles. Its failure to produce sufficient revenue to meet operating expenses and the availability of other lines serving the people of these cities were among the reasons advanced for the desire for abandonment. No one appeared to oppose the petition.

Allege Illegal Rates.

Alleging that the East Carolina Railway company and the Washington and Vandremer Railroad company are owned and operated by the Atlantic Coast Line and are charging freight rates in excess of those allowed by the commission generally in North Carolina, the North Carolina Traffic association has filed complaint with the state corporation commission for relief from overcharges. The Atlantic Coast Line and the two short line roads are made defendants. No date has been set for hearing.

The Bible in Public Schools.

Questioning nothing save the provision to increase the initiation fee from one dollar to two dollars, passing resolutions, amending the constitution, and electing Dr. Charles E. Brewer president and Miss Elizabeth Kelley vice president in routine fashion, the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly concluded its business sessions and adjourned after listening to addresses by Dr. Louise Arnold, Dean Emeritus Simmons College, and Dr. C. Alphonso Smith, head of the Department of English U. S. Naval Academy.

Unanimous endorsement of the program of the State Board of Education, the program of the governor, the employment of a full time secretary, the teaching of the Bible in the regular course of study in all public schools, and changing the time of meeting from Thanksgiving week here included in the resolutions that were passed during the afternoon session. Resolutions offered by Dr. W. L. Poole commended President Harding and Secretary Hughes for their work toward disarmament.

College Must Measure Up.

The people of North Carolina, both through their denominational agencies and through their legislative organization, have answered the demand for the colleges, both state and denominational, for more adequate support and it is now up to the colleges to respond with service commensurate with the benefits they have received, in the opinions advanced at the meeting of the higher education department of the Teachers' Assembly.

New Trial in Ross Will Case.

The supreme court, ordered a new trial in the Ross will case, of Union county, and affirmed the Springs will case of Mecklenburg.

The Ross will case, which attracted state wide attention when it was heard in Union county superior court some months ago, was the outgrowth of the bequest by Maggie Ross, an aged white woman, of her ancestral home and other property worth over a hundred thousand dollars to a negro woman and her father.

State Answers Complaint.

The state's answer to the complaint in the Southern railway suit against Revenue Commissioner A. D. Watts and state taxing powers for property valuation reductions was made public. It sets for an array of material to support the taxing authorities in their contentions as to the valuation of the plaintiff's property, and prays to the court that the complaint be denied "and that the same be dismissed at the cost of the plaintiff."

President, Primary Teachers.

Miss Annie Workman, of Roanoke Rapids, formerly rural supervisor in Wake county, was elected president of the Association of Primary Teachers. Miss Mary Graham, Charlotte, was elected vice president and Miss Rosa Abbott, Greensboro, secretary.

School Superintendents Meet.

The association of county school superintendents convened in annual meeting, a day in advance of the opening of the regular sessions of the teachers' assembly. The superintendents are taking up the major part of their program with a discussion of technical subjects in connection with the operations of county schools.

Two Escaped Convicts Taken.

Two of the six white prisoners who escaped from the state prison farm, were captured by prison guards near Morrisville and it is believed that the other four, who were reported to be together and several miles ahead of the two recaptured convicts will soon be in custody again.

Prizes Awarded Students.

Merchandise valued at nearly \$600 donated by local merchants and out-of-the-state dealers as premiums and prizes, has been awarded to the prize winners at the state college agricultural fair. Competition was limited to students.

Country Child Gets Attention.

The country child is getting more attention than any other problem discussed at the teachers' assembly this year. The educational thought of the country, it would seem from the program and the sentiment of speakers here, is turning to the problem of improving the educational facilities for the children in the rural communities.

Bids Opened for Highways.

Bids for approximately a million and a quarter dollars of hard-surfaced highway and bridge construction work in Mecklenburg, Gaston, Iredell and Catawba counties, were opened by the state highway highway commission.

The work includes the construction of 10 miles of asphalt roadway in Mecklenburg, 10.85 miles in Catawba, 10.59 in Iredell and 8 1-2 miles in Gaston. That portion in Mecklenburg and Iredell is between Charlotte and Statesville.

Avalanche of Moral Slips.

An avalanche of moral slips resulting in the bringing of charges of abduction, assault, carrying concealed weapons and embezzlement against Jonathan Bennett of Jackson county, sends this mountaineer back to the penitentiary under a revoked pardon twenty years after the commission of the crime. Governor Morrison notified the Jackson county officials of his action, and Bennett will be brought back to the penitentiary to serve the remaining fourteen years of a fifteen year sentence for manslaughter.

HENRY FORD TALKS OF MUSCLE SHOALS

INSIDE PLANS ARE OUTLINED FOR THE TAKING OVER OF GREAT NITRATE PLANT.

ENERGY UNIT ISSUE PROPOSED

"The Government First Gave Credit and Then Must Pay For Use of What It Gave."

Florence, Ala.—Henry Ford, for the first time, gave the inside story of his epochal plan to take over from the government the gigantic nitrate plants at Muscle Shoals.

Mr. Ford expects through his operation of the war plants to point the way to the rest of the world for permanent peace. This is how he will do it, provided the government sells him the properties.

Instead of the government issuing bonds for the \$30,000,000 still needed to complete the nitrate plants, Mr. Ford proposes that congress authorize an issue of 1,500,000 20-dollar bills for a new form of currency.

This currency would not be based on gold or silver or any recognized monetary unit. It would be based on a unit of energy which would be equivalent to one dollar. This energy money would not bear interest. It would pass as readily as bills backed by the gold reserve in the treasury. It would be backed by the imperishable and inexhaustible energy of the Tennessee river.

"Engineers say it will take thirty million more to finish the job," Mr. Ford said, "but congress is economical and doesn't want to tax the people for it. The United States, the greatest government in the world, is forced to go out to borrow a pesky thirty million dollars as the end of thirty years. The government not only has to pay back the thirty million but it has to pay 120 per cent interest. Literally has to pay back \$66,000,000 for the use of \$30,000,000 for thirty years and all the time it is the government's own money—the money sellers never created it, they got it from the government originally."

"The government first gave credit and then must pay for the use of what it gave. Think of it! Could anything be more childish?"

New Turn in Poison Case. Augusta, Ga.—As a sequel to the recent tragedy at Beldoc, S. C., when the wife and three children of J. W. Lee died suddenly of a mysterious malady, and strangely connected with that case, nine persons lie desperately ill at a boarding house at Martin, S. C., a few miles from Beldoc, all claiming they were stricken immediately after eating biscuits made from flour taken from the Lee home.

Fire Destroys Cotton. Greenwood, Miss.—Over 7,000 bales of long staple cotton were destroyed by fire of undetermined origin which broke out in the warehouse of the Greenwood Compress & Storage company here.

Babe Ruth Suspended. Chicago.—Babe Ruth's share of the world's series profits in 1921 were declared forfeited and Ruth himself suspended until May 20, 1922, by Commissioner K. M. Landis.

Replacing Striking Employes. Chicago.—Plans for the immediate replacement of union packing house employes who obey the strike order were being carried out at the fifteen packing centers in the middle west affected by the walkout.

"The Big Five" packers declared the organized workers represented less than five per cent of the total.

Lloyd George Undecided. London.—Prime Minister Lloyd George has not definitely abandoned his trip to the Washington conference nor has he definitely decided to go, according to a statement made at his official residence. The situation regarding his proposed trip is unchanged.

To Meet in Memphis. Memphis.—The annual convention of the officers of the Epworth league of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, will be held in Memphis January 16 to 19, it was announced here.

Mobs Kill Three Negroes. Watkinsville, Ga.—Roy Grove and Wes Hales, negroes, were taken from their homes near Snow Mill, in Oconee county, and lynched, and Aaron Birdsong, who is alleged to have shot and wounded two white men, was shot and killed by a posse.

College President Resigns. Tampa, Fla.—Dr. George Morgan Ward, president of Rollins college, has resigned, according to an announcement by Mrs. Ward. She refused to discuss the matter further or to indicate Dr. Ward's plans.

Oppose Wage Cuts. Chicago.—Forty-five thousand union workers employed in packing plants throughout the country will strike in protest against wage reductions, averaging 10 per cent, authorized by plant assemblies.

Stewart's Life Romance Bared

Speedometer Man Really Was Terence O'Brien, One-Time Clipper of Horses.

ALSO WAS MINING PROSPECTOR

Litigation Over \$5,257,343 Estate Left by Manufacturer Leads to Baring of "Family Skeleton"—Eccentric About Money.

Chicago.—Litigation over the \$5,257,343 estate left by the late John K. Stewart, founder and president of the Stewart Manufacturing company and the Stewart-Warner Speedometer company, bared a "family skeleton." Search of records of the Surrogate court in Riverhead, L. I., in which one of the two wills made by the Chicago millionaire was filed, revealed that his name was really Terence O'Brien. Under this name he had been a mining prospector in the West, always without much success.

From prospecting O'Brien turned his hand to clipping horses, following county fairs. In Seattle he met Arthur and Michael Conlon. Together they in-

vented a horse clipping machine. This contained a flexible shaft, which served as the basis of future automobile accessory appliances.

Soon Brings in Big Profits.

This shaft was patented by O'Brien by a lawyer named Stewart and soon it began to pay large profits. It was placed on the market as the John K. Stewart speedometer, the name of the lawyer furnishing part of the title and that of a race horse, "John K.," furnishing the remainder.

O'Brien later decided to adopt as his own the name of the device he had placed on the market, and from that time on was known as John K. Stewart.

With the acquisition of his fair fortune O'Brien, now known as Stewart, left the West and moved to Chicago, introduced the speedometer and soon his wealth grew to great proportions. He purchased a residence at 3217 Sheridan road and bought a mansion at Center Point, L. I., to which he later moved with his wife and two daughters, Marion and Jean.

He was in his early forties when he died, leaving an estate of five to seven millions.

Both Stewart and his widow, who died nine months after his wife were eccentric in handling money. First a clerk in the office of the Speedometer company discovered some deposit slips on Chicago banks calling for \$1,800,000 which it was not known that Mr. Stewart possessed. This money was found in six banks and turned into the estate. Shortly afterwards Leander H. La Chance, now chairman of the board of directors of the Stewart-Warner Speedometer company, and trustee of the Stewart estate, received a bill for \$7.50 for the rent of a safety deposit vault of which he knew nothing.

Daughters Get Estate.

In the safety deposit vault \$250,000 more was discovered. At another time a suitcase which Mrs. Stewart, who died in Aiken, S. C., had left in a hotel there was opened and \$890,000 in currency, in \$5,000 and \$10,000 gold certificates rolled out. This suitcase also contained \$296,000 in certified checks. The suitcase had been carried around the country without more than the usual care.

The fortune left by Stewart was originally divided between his two daughters, but Jean died October 10 last, while still a child. Marion married Robert B. Honeyman Jr., of New York City, and inherited the entire estate.

It was her action in filing, through her father-in-law Robert B. Honeyman, a New York lawyer, a suit charging incompetence and general mismanagement of the estate, that led to the discovery of the romance of her father's career.

WILL STUDY SLEEPING SICKNESS

First Organized Investigation of Disease to Be Made.

Expedition Conducted by Four Physicians and Two Veterinary Scientists Will Study Sickness in Tropical Africa.

London.—An expedition formed by the Tropical Diseases Prevention association soon will leave to make the first organized attempt to investigate on the spot the treatment of sleeping sickness, as distinct from the question of the mere transmission of the disease.

The expedition will be conducted by four physicians and two veterinary scientists, and it is expected the work will occupy two and a half years. It is sought to carry out the work in different centers with the sanction and support of the governments interested, and it is hoped that it will result

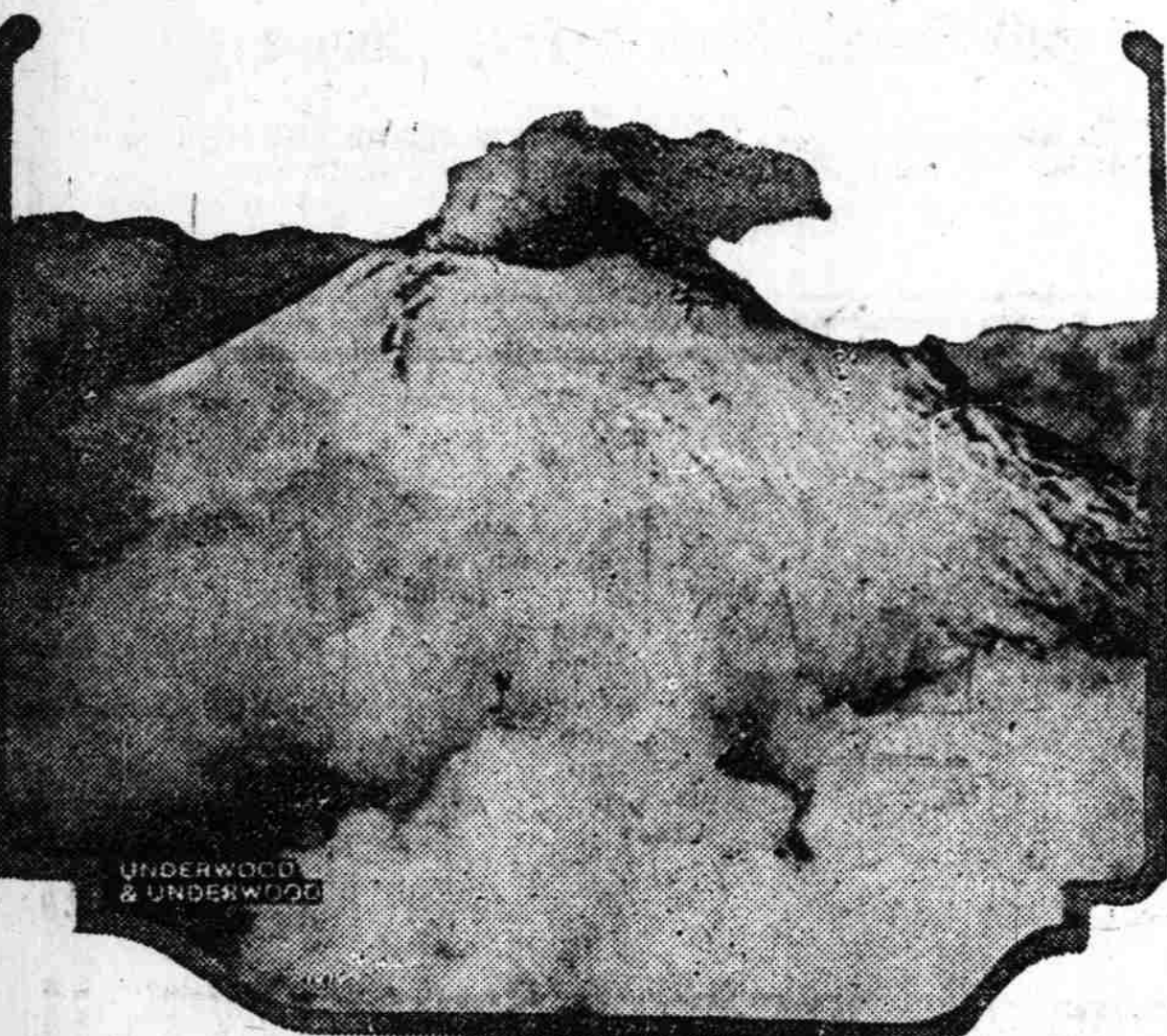
in a general system of vaccination whereby all individuals arriving in a danger zone will be inoculated and so gradually rendered immune.

The expedition will first work in Uganda. It will probably proceed later to the Belgian Congo, and it is hoped to extend the work to Rhodesia and the Sudan, where there is a big epidemic of the disease.

The sleeping sickness has been prevalent among the natives of West Africa for 100 years. It is generally attributed to a parasite carried by a species of the tsetse fly which infects cattle. The disease has caused heavy mortality among the natives of the Congo and Uganda for many years, and is greatly dreaded by Europeans in the parts of Africa where it exists. Its origin has been the subject of much medical research.

Sulphite turpentine gas given off when wood is boiled in paper making is used in making TNT.

Popocatepetl Is Becoming Dangerous



First airplane photograph of Popocatepetl, Mexico's famous volcano, which is just now becoming so vigorously active that the inhabitants of the villages at its base have left their homes. The mountain, composed chiefly of porphyritic obsidian, rises in a cone 17,720 feet above sea level, about ten miles southwest of Mexico City.

Virginia Boy, 7 Years Old, Arrested as Horse Thief

Roanoke, Va.—Russell Smith, seven years old, was arrested recently on a charge of stealing a horse. The boy was turned over to I. E. Watson, probation officer. This is the youngest offender of the law who has been arrested here in 20 years, it was said.

Gems Kicked About Street.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Diamond rings worth \$5,000, tied in a linen handkerchief, were kicked about the streets and trampled by residents of Tarentum two days before Joseph DeNanze of Tarentum picked up the bundle in Center street. The diamonds were lost by Mrs. Joseph Klein of Tarentum one Monday morning, when she was shopping. The jewelry was turned over to the owner by DeNanze. Mrs. Klein had offered \$300 reward.