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Zuyder Zee to Be Reclaimed

Work on $125,000,000 Engineering Project Will Start This Year.

PROVIDE LAND FOR 300,000

Dike Thirty Miles Long Is Part of Plan to Add New Province to Holland—Area of 827 Square Miles to Be Reclaimed.

The Hague.—Work is to begin this year on the reclaiming of the Zuyder Zee, one of the world's greatest engineering projects, by which it is proposed to restore to Holland within 35 years what was once hers but was taken away by storms of many centuries.

When the work is finished not only the original land will be restored, but many thousand acres which always have been beneath the sea will be ready for cultivation.

According to pre-war estimates the entire work of reclaiming the Zuyder Zee would have cost approximately $88,800,000, but, with the increased cost of labor and materials in the last six years, it is believed the cost will be well in excess of $125,000,000. The work will be done and paid for by the state, through special loans, and the state, through rental of the land reclaimed, expects the scheme to pay for itself within a few years, and thereafter yield a handsome revenue.

Will Support 300,000 Persons.

The total amount of land to be reclaimed will be 827 square miles, which will constitute a twelfth province of Holland, capable of supporting a population of 300,000, and wherein several cities of ancient trading fame are expected to be restored to commercial importance. The engineering work is now well under way.

Centuries ago, at the beginning of the Christian era, when the Romans had their settlements in Holland, much of the space now occupied by the Zuyder Zee was land and the south part of the present sea was a lake, called Flevo. Northwest tempests swept the North Sea, washing away the tract of dry land between the sea and the lake. One large, shallow body of water—the Zuyder Zee—was formed.

The towns situated on its bank throve as the merchantmen came into their ports. But as ships became larger and of deeper draught, traffic was diverted to deeper seas, leaving the once famous towns on the Zuyder's shore mere fishing villages, which they are now, while Amsterdam's commerce came to her through a canal leading direct to the North sea.

Dr. A. A. Beekman of The Hague, who has devoted nearly all his life to the idea of reclaiming the Zuyder Zee, explained the plans to the Associated Press correspondent. He is now a member of the state council which will carry out the work.

"The first thing to do," said Doctor Beekman, "is to construct a gigantic dike to keep out the North sea. This will be 30 miles long, stretching from Wieringen to the Frisian coast, where the water ranges in depth from 33 to 11 feet. It will be everywhere 16 to 17 feet above the sea level. There will be a double-track railway on top of the dike. Its construction will take nine years and its cost, by pre-war estimates, will be more than $20,000,000.

"The total surface to be reclaimed is 827 square miles. There will remain a lake of 600 square miles, which will act as a reservoir during the periods when, owing to northwestern storms, the water of the River Yssel and of the canals cannot be emptied into the North sea. The water of the lake will be let out into the North sea through five great sluices at the Wieringen end of the dike.

"Most of the land to be reclaimed now lies 13 feet beneath the sea level. Part of it is expected to be dry within 14 years, as pumping out will begin as soon as the dike is completed. The last of the land is expected to be dry within 55 years."

N. Y. Hostelry Opened in 1812 Closed by Dry Law

New York.—Prohibition closed the doors of another famous hostelry, the Eastern hotel at the Battery, which was first opened shortly after the war of 1812. Solid mahogany beams form the framework of the structure, one of the oldest on the island of Manhattan. Many prominent persons made their headquarters at the hotel, including Robert Fulton, steamboat inventor; Daniel Webster, Commodore Vanderbilt, Jenny Lind, P. T. Barnum and General Grant.

"VIRGIN" WAS ONLY SHADOW

Priest Solved a Mystery Which Caused Excitement Among French Villagers.

Metz.—Excitement among the people of Noveant, a small village near here, over the supposed appearance of the Virgin near a church yard, has been calmed by an investigation conducted by religious authorities. It was said the apparition appeared at a certain time each day, seeming to stand on the steps of a little villa.

Father Bentz posted himself one evening at a point where others said they had seen the Virgin, and at once solved the mystery. He found two trees some distance away which, just at sunset, cast a shadow presenting a clear outline of a statue of the Madonna, the resemblance being striking.

Bishop Ruch of Metz, commenting on the case, said when it was explained to him:

"We must not expect too many miracles. We have just witnessed one of the greatest miracles of all times—the return of Lorraine to France—and we can afford to wait a little while for another."

138 Ex-Army Officers Re-Enlist.

Washington.—A total of 138 former army officers, including one man who held a lieutenant-colonel's commission during the war, have enlisted in the regular army quertermaster corps, according to a statement issued by the war department. Included are 28 majors, 87 captains, six first and 16 second lieutenants.

Noah's Ark as Model for Boat

Lake Erie Fisherman Had Faith Enough in Idea to Build One.

PROVED SAFE AS A HOUSE

Now the United Fishing Company Has Built One and Will Build Five More—Successfully Combats Roughest Seas.

Sandusky, O.—Ed. Lampe, a fisherman at Vermilion, a Lake Erie port town twenty-two miles east of this city, was reading a story about Noah's ark to his children one night several months ago, when it occurred to him that were the craft of Noah's time resurrected and modernized a little it might have a tendency to lessen the toll that storms take annually in the Great Lakes section.

Lampe is a gillnetter of many years' experience, and in the picture of Noah's ark that embellished the story he was reading, he recognized wonderful possibilities. The storms of the Great Lakes section rage furiously in spring, following the opening of the navigation season, and again in fall, just before the season closes. Many men lose their lives and much valuable property is destroyed.

The gillnetters, as those fishermen who fish with gill nets are known, are oftener the victims than are the members of any other body of men engaged in fishing; their work is more hazardous. When disaster comes it is usually the gillnetters' boat, or "tug," that is destroyed.

A Real Success.

Lampe designed a boat on the plan of Noah's ark. With the aid of several fishermen friends he brought his design to materialization. He tried the craft out and it met every expectation. It ploughed the most vicious billows, going out and returning when other boats had to be kept in port.

Lampe's craft attracted the attention of the commercial fishing interests of the Lake Erie section and investigators were sent to Vermilion. If it were true that a Vermilion fisherman had invented a boat patterned after Noah's ark that would lessen the risk of spring and fall season fishing they wanted to give the fishermen the benefit of the discovery, they said.

The Vermilion gillnetter would not listen to a proposition to sell his idea, nor would he talk of royalty.

"If you can save some poor devil's life by using my style of boat, go ahead and use it," he said.

The United Fisheries company of this city, one of the largest organizations of its kind operating on Lake Erie, recently completed the first of six gillnet tugs of the type designed by Lampe, at a shipbuilding plant in this city. The other five are to be ready to be commissioned at the beginning of the spring fishing season of 1920.

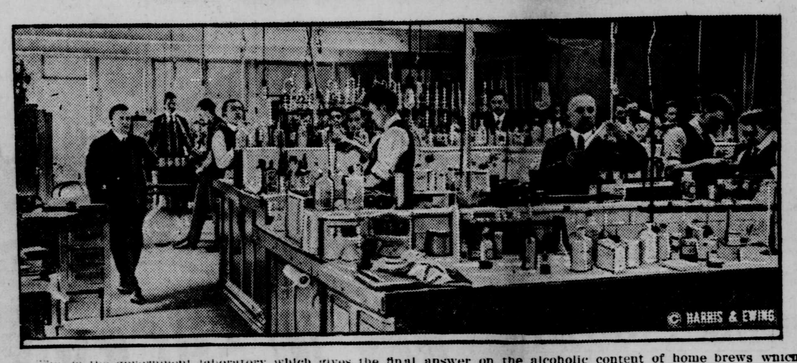
Lampe christened his boat Victory, for the reason that she is believed to have triumphed over the storm. With a bow like that of a battleship, and a body otherwise that resembles the conventional pictures of Noah's ark, she has been successfully combating the roughest seas that the Lake Erie nor'easter has been able thus far to kick up.

Victory is fifty-five feet long, with a fifteen foot beam. She is equipped with two power plants, so that if one should happen to "go bad," the other will be available. Her upper works are so constructed that they can be made almost water tight, and her hull bears the weight required to right her immediately if she should happen to turn over.

"I would as lief be sitting in the cabin of Victory as in my office or my home, no matter how severe the storm," said Charles F. Mischler, president of the United Fisheries company, discussing the new gillnetting craft.

Fishermen say that boats of this kind will, in the near future, replace the old-time gillnetting tugs now in use, and that a big saving in life and property will result.

WHERE UNCLE SAM TESTS YOUR HOME BREW



This is the government laboratory which gives the final answer on the alcoholic content of home brews which Uncle Sam's prohibition sleuths seize. Hard cider, hair tonics, patent medicines, flavoring extracts, and all other forms of alcoholic drinks which the government samples will reach the same goal. The laboratory is in the treasury department where it has passed from the jurisdiction of the bureau of internal revenue to the federal prohibition commission.

HELD UP BY WOMAN

Female Bandit Uses Gun and Secures $7,000.

Feminine Footpad Chatted as She Frisked Pittsburgh Banker.

Pittsburgh.—Adam Eidemuller, secretary of a building and loan association, was held up by a polite, heavily veiled woman footpad and robbed of $7,000 while almost within sight of his home.

"Oh, I beg your pardon," the woman said as she bumped into Eidemuller.

He hastened to pardon her, but saw in her hand a small pistol. The warning she issued was quiet but stern, Eidemuller told detectives.

Keeping the pistol in position, she moved closer to Eidemuller and drew from his hip pocket a wallet, fairly bulging with money and checks he had taken in at a meeting of the loan association.

Then with a smile she started a conversation concerning the "funny weather Pittsburgh has been having," keeping the revolver pressed close to her victim.

Eidemuller was forced to join in the conversation, he said, and after several pedestrians had passed she reached into his vest pocket and removed his watch.

She unclasped this from a watch-chain, and again continued her conversation about the weather.

"You just keep going," she warned Eidemuller as she had slipped the watch and wallet into a large muff.

Woman, 81, Shoplifter.

London.—Sarah Ann Bennett, 81, was convicted of shoplifting here. She stole silk stockings, a diary, perfume and post cards.

HEART MISSED MANY BEATS

Bullet Wound to Civil War Veteran of Pittsburgh Caused Abnormal Action.

Pittsburgh.—Andrew C. Gibson, seventy-seven years old, a member of Company I, Fourteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, during the Civil war, who died at Midway Sunday evening, had the distinction of having had 317,571,600 less heart beats in fifty-seven years of his life than does the normal man.

Gibson was wounded during the Civil war at the age of twenty. The bullet passed between two ribs and close to the heart, spreading an artery and vein. In some way it affected his heart to such an extent that that organ missed one beat in every four of a normal heart.

According to calculations, Gibson's heart missed 1080 beats each hour 15,120 beats every twenty-four hours, 5,518,800 each year, and 317,571,600 in the fifty-seven years following his injury.

KEEP OLD CURIOS

British Business Houses Have Their Own Museums.

Interesting Relics and Samples That Have in Some Cases Been Preserved for More Than a Century.

The curiosities preserved by various business houses in Britain and elsewhere would make a museum of great size and unparalleled interest, observes London Answers.

The Worcester china works, for instance, possess samples of all the various kinds of china which they have manufactured for nearly 150 years past, including examples of dinner services made for many celebrities, such as Lord Nelson and George IV.

Another Worcester firm preserves with tender care a little faded slip of yellowish paper. On it is written the recipe, now some two centuries old, which was purchased by a former head of the firm from a butler, and has been the means of creating a large business and several large fortunes.

More than one firm cherishes some similar recipe. The Sprules, who supply lavender water to half the royal families in the world; the Nanis, who hold the original recipe for maraschino. Both these carefully preserve the writings which founded their fortunes.

The famous firm of Sheffield cutlers, Joseph Rodgers & Sons, show visitors a knife with 1,900 blades. Ten fresh blades are added to it every tenth year. A second curiosity of which the firm is proud consists of three pairs of scissors so minute that all three can be covered by an ordinary lady's thimble. Another Sheffield firm possesses a knife which, though only an inch in length when closed, has seventy blades, all of different shapes.

A London firm of potted meat manufacturers possesses an interesting collection of the covers of the large china pots in which potted meat used to be sold some forty years ago. These are daintily printed in color from designs by some of the best known Dutch and English artists of the time. Each is framed, and probably no other house can show a prettier or quainter collection.

Shipping firms of old standing often accumulate wonderful stories of interesting relics. One Liverpool firm possesses a huge bone taken from a whale which a good many years ago deliberately charged a ship of theirs in the north Atlantic. The steamer was badly damaged but the whale was killed.

A good many firms preserve historic machinery of one kind or another. Richard Arkwright's own spinning frame is still to be seen at the Cromford mills. It looks clumsy enough compared with the complicated and highly finished machinery of today, but it was practically the source of Lancashire's great cotton trade and unexampled prosperity.

Lizards House Pets in Siam.

Lizards live in houses in Siam, just as rats and mice do here. Some interesting facts are told by George Pratt Ingersoll, former United States minister to Siam. Among the Siamese lizards is a large one known as the "toh-ke," or tokay, about a foot long, having a black body, sometimes with white stripes, ugly, bulging eyes, and short, clumsy legs.

The tokay is not pleasant to look upon, but is in no way dangerous, and will run away when disturbed, as rapidly as his uncanny body and legs will allow him. The tokay crows with a hoarse, infernal voice quite loud some five or six times, followed by a rattle or fiendish chuckle. These large lizards are found throughout Siam in the thickly inhabited cities as well as in the uncultivated districts.

The lizards are harmless, but no one rejoices in their company, even the Siamese, who, from their Buddhist training and teaching are kind to all living things. So when a tokay is discovered in a house the Chinese servants are called, and they fly, with sticks and with glee, to the attack, and usually succeed in dispatching the reptile.

City's Many Expenses.

The surprising range of a modern city government is revealed by some of the items in the municipal budget of Philadelphia. Music for afternoon and evening concerts cost the city $15,000; meats and groceries for the municipal court, $8,000; celebrating the Fourth of July and Memorial day, $14,750; removing ashes from the city hall, $5,000. To a tide observer the city pays every year $1,000; to piano players and swimming teachers, $10,000; to a shoemaker, $800; to a collector of biological specimens, $1,000; to a barber, $360; to a masseuse, $650; to a dairyman, $600; to several plumbers, $1,200 apiece; to an entomologist, $1,000; to a sheet-iron worker, $1,500; and to an expert pole climber, $4.50 a day.—Youth's Companion.

Highest Type of Courage.

The best examples of heroism are found in everyday life. To keep steadily on in the face of obstacles takes courage. There's little in life's commonplaces to awaken poesy, but there's much to challenge admiration. With neither flag nor drum beat many a heroic soul fights against odds that seem to leave no chance for success. Yet when the soul is headed right it knows neither retreat nor defeat. It has learned only to move forward. No matter how hard the struggle is, it keeps on. In the face of severest trials great advances have been made. When poverty rises to shake off its fetters through an attempt to serve humanity it challenges to unequal combat and wins in proportion to the justice of its cause.

Ready Explanation.

"Walter, it seems to me the portions have grown smaller than when I was in here last summer."

"That is only by comparison, sir; we have enlarged the place."—Boston Transcript.

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