

BOLLS OF LIGHTNING 20

United States Forest Service Correlation
an Impression That Has Become
Almost Universal.

It is an old saying that most proverbs are only half-truths. Some are wholly contrary to fact.

For instance, there is an ancient proverb to the effect that "lightning never strikes twice in the same place." This is absolutely untrue.

The United States forest service, which dreads lightning as a frequent cause of forest fires avers that lightning has "zones of frequency," where it is likely to strike whenever there is an electrical storm. It suggests that such zones might be mapped with a view to special precautions.

These zones have reference to topography, especially in mountainous regions. A hill much more likely to be struck by lightning than any area of level land because it is nearer to the

stratified tree does not "attract" lightning as is commonly supposed. If a tall, lightning is more apt to strike than to hit objects in its neighborhood because of its height.

Like reason the Eiffel tower in Paris has often been struck by lightning. The lofty shaft erected in honor of the father of his country, in Washington, is a frequent target for thunder, and has to be protected from them by an elaborate system of lightning rods.

A high mountain top is sure to be struck frequently by lightning. But if its elevation be great enough it is beyond the ordinary level of the clouds. In that case it will be in a lightning-struck zone lower around its sides.

When a lightning-bolt discharged on a quartz rock or quartz sand melts the silica and forms a curious little glass, perhaps an inch in diameter and some inches in length. These pipes, called "fugurites," are often found in large numbers on mountain tops.

FIRST METALLIC PEN

late Frenchman, Victim of
an's Enmity, Was the In-
ventor, According to Historians.

Invention of the metallic pen
to France, the first writing im-
of this character being used
amous state prisoner, La Tude,
ed down the wrath of Mme.
adour by his passionate let-
La Tude was the natural son
minent court official and was
up for a military career, but
staken youthful adoration he
reted the smiles of Mme. de
r. In an effort to prove his
s friends devised a harmless
exploded noisily when Mme.
adour opened it—after receiv-
er from La Tude warning her
ding danger from her enemies.
e contents of the box were
be nothing more dangerous
m powder, La Tude was
to a dungeon, where he

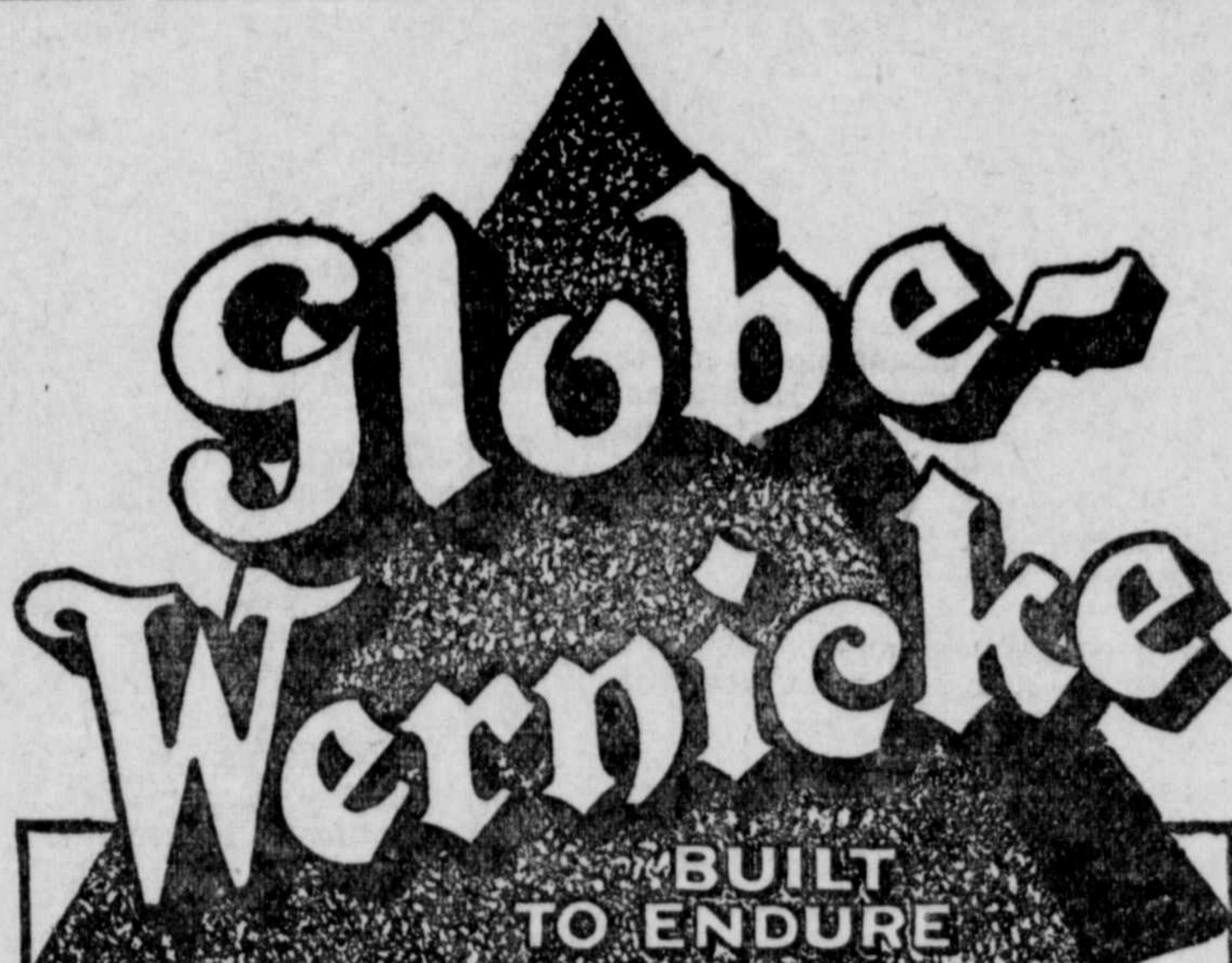
And Insurance.

and Fire Prevention
which will teach many
many ways of pre-
fires, will also teach
value of fire insurance,
which, next to prevention of fires, is
the best safeguard against heavy
losses. Every person owning prop-
erty should see to it that his insur-
ance policy is in working order; that
is, that it covers his possessions
thoroughly and that it is adequate.

Chinese Railways.

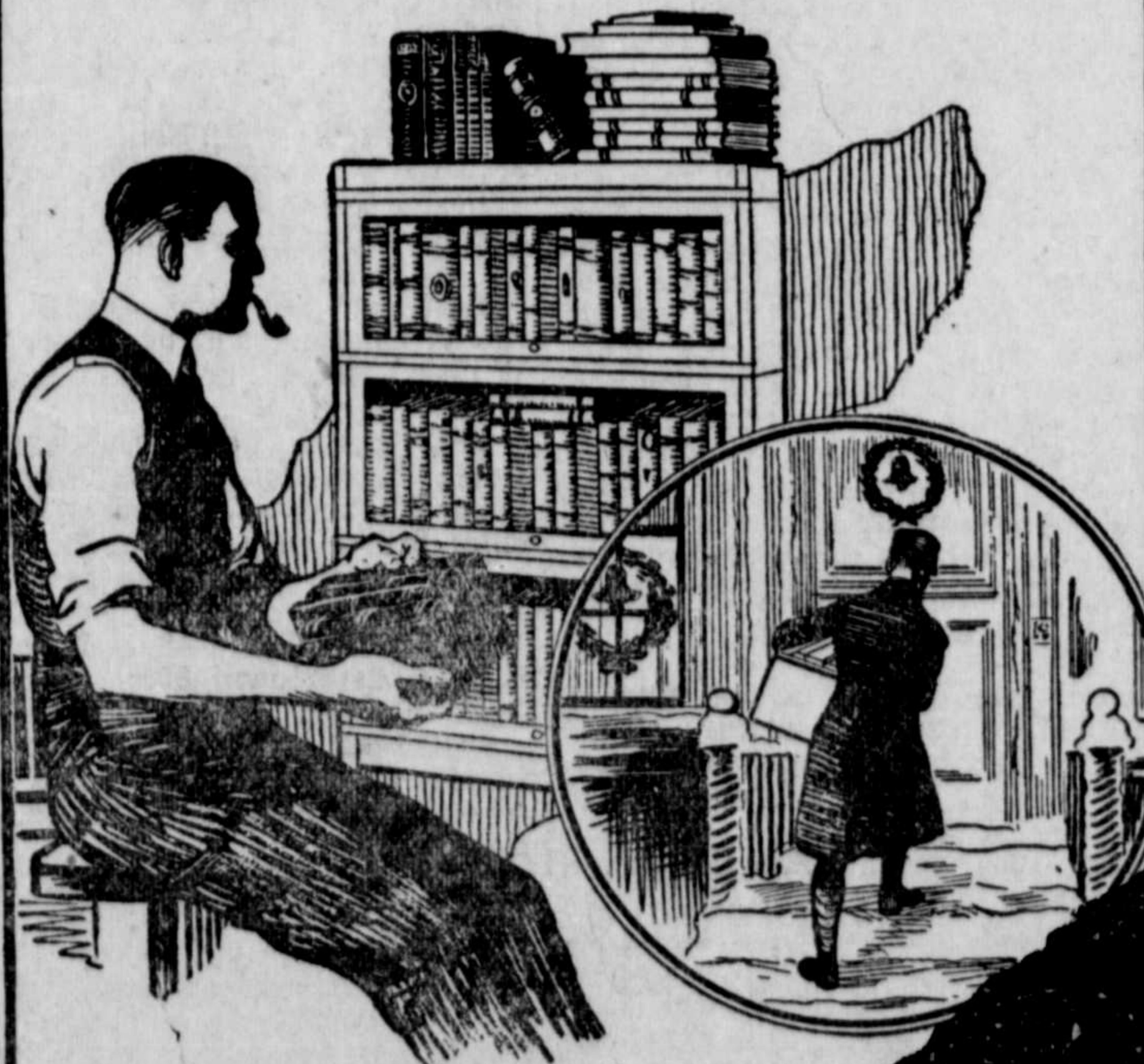
Of 6,836 miles of railway in China
in 1918, more than 4,000 miles of main
and branch lines were owned and op-
erated by the government, these com-
prising 14 railways in 14 out of the 18
provinces. In addition there were 11
provincial and private railways (some
owned by mining companies) aggre-
gating 425 miles and five concession
lines aggregating near 2,300 miles.

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