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Ohio State Engineer

Title: Front Matter

Issue Date: Nov-1923

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

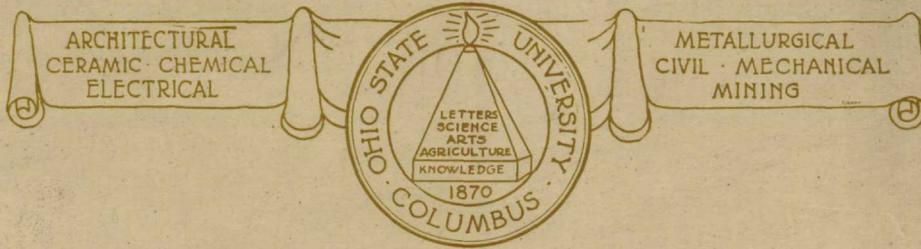
Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 7, no. 1 (November, 1923), 1-4.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/32848>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 7, no. 1 \(November, 1923\)](#)

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OHIO STATE ENGINEER



MELBOURNE SUBURBAN TERMINAL, AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER, 1923

Vol. VII

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

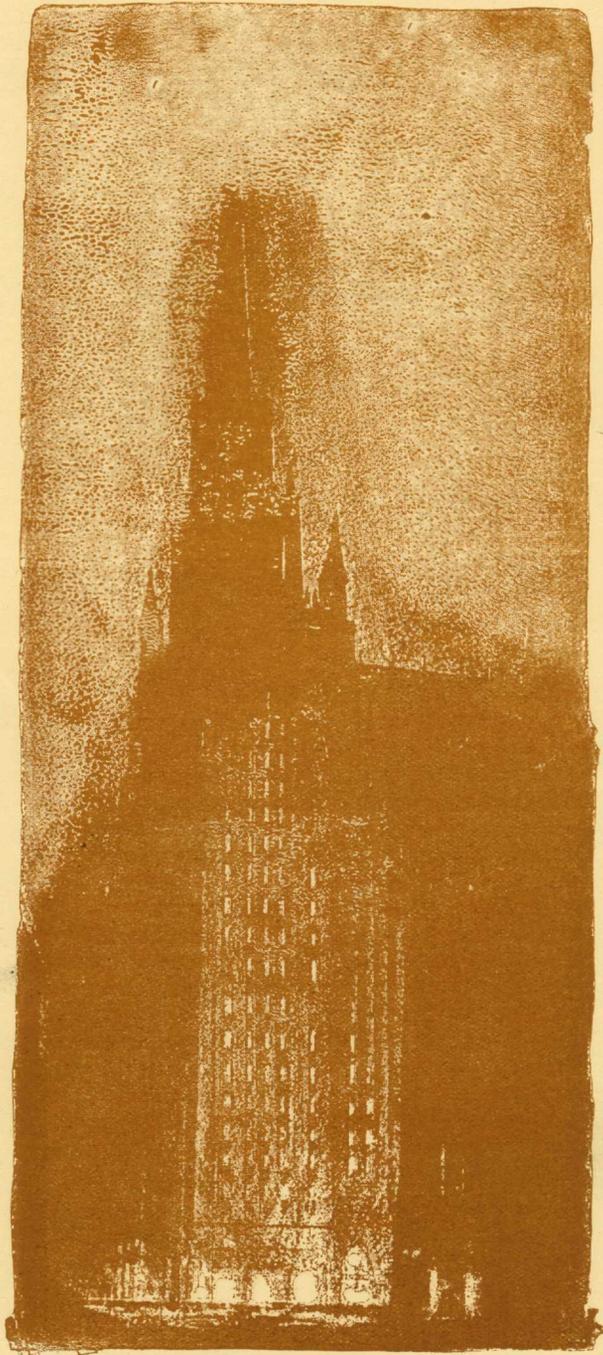
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The Chicago Temple
Chicago, Illinois
HOLABIRD & ROCHE,
Architects

Drawn by Hugh Ferriss



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a Picture”

Hugh Ferriss

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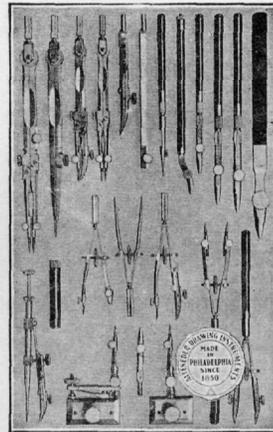
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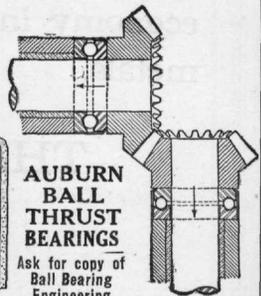
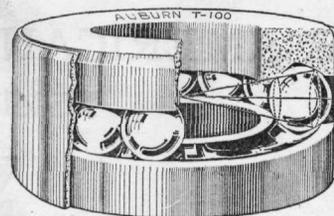
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THE BATTLE OF "PAINTED POLE"

Written for the Rig and Reel

By WILL FERRELL

Author of Poems in Oil

HAVE YOU heard the story of Jack O'Rear,
The Cumberland pipe-line engineer?
It deals with Kentucky—a hidden "still"
Deep in the heart of a guarded hill.
The word went forth from the Jarvis crowd
That no "trespassin" would be allowed.
They meant it, too, and their aim was true
And, once fired up on their hellish brew,
They knew no limit of blood nor pain
To him who ventured their dark domain.

Just one way out, so the blue print said—
Over the hill and straight ahead,
Else through the flood of the yellow tide
Of a river, treacherous, deep and wide.
So Jack O'Rear with his blanket roll,
His high school helper and painted pole,
Tackled the job and he knew his "stuff,"
For he came from a land where the folks are rough,
And he started out on the mountain grade,
Calm and determined and unafraid.

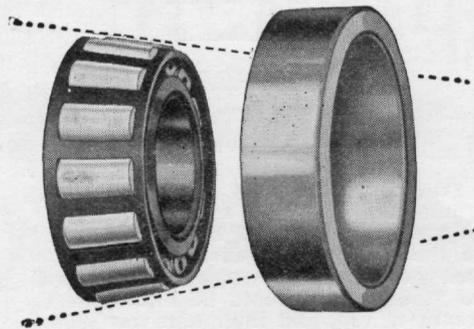
"Ping!" Like the hiss of an angry cat,
A bullet tore through his khaki hat.
The high school helper fled in fear
And left the battle to Jack O'Rear,
Who, bending low to spoil the aim
Of the hidden gun in its ghastly game,
Seized the pole wit hits red and white
And charged like a Trojan up the height,
As the eerie whine of a leaden pill,
Slithered and echoed around the hill.

He came full head on a Jarvis son,
Clubbing the barrel of his empty gun.
But Jack was quick as a cat is quick,
And battered him down with his painted stick,
Then on to the next in his headlong wrath,
He met the chief in the mooted path—
The giant bulk of the mountaineer,
Versus the mettle of Jack O'Rear;
Beef and power and clumsy might,
Versus the clip of a well-trained right.

They are telling it yet in the pipe-line camps,
Of the fallen chief and his blackened "lamps,"
Limping his way through the valley town,
Beaten and cowed, as the sun went down;
And close on his heels, with his blood-smeared face,
Striving to quicken the big man's pace,
Followed O'Rear, with his blanket roll,
His old sextant and his painted pole,
Straight to the office of Justice Gray,
To draw up terms of the right-of-way.

Kentucky is tame this latter day.
The moonshine merchant has gone to stay.
The old defi of a rifle shot
Has vanished away with things forgot.
Pipe lines cut through the tangled vales
And Progress treads on the storm-worn trails.
Progress of OIL, with its iron will,
Backed by valor and brawn and skill,
By men who conquer—who laugh at fear—
Men of the courage of Jack O'Rear.

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