

**Holland to Pump
Zuyder Zee Dry**

Holland plans to pump the historic Zuyder Zee dry.

The work is expected to occupy thirty-three years and cost over \$75,000,000, says Everyday Science. A great dam or embankment is now being built across the north end of the sea from Wieringen in North Holland to Piaan in Friesland. It will have a length of nearly fifteen miles, easily making it the longest of sea embankments.

It will result in turning over half a million acres of this great arm of the North sea into dry land. Where of old the great Dutch war fleets gathered, where now 4,000 fishermen sink their nets, there will rise villages, pastures, poplar-bordered roads and sleepy canals, new farms and homes for thousands of people.

Some few months prior to the war the Dutch government put in hand their long projected scheme for draining and reclaiming the historic Zuyder Zee, but during the upheaval the project was dropped.

The great dam is being built of sand mixed with rubble and stone, and not of concrete. Communication with the North sea will be maintained by thirty-three large sluice-gates. The construction of the embankment and a couple of locks for shipping, is expected to occupy nine years.

Within the embankment four areas, known as the northwestern, southwestern, northeastern and southeastern, are to be drained and reclaimed, each of which is to be apportioned to the province which it adjoins. These reclaimed sites will have an area of 54,270, 78,800, 127,125 and 269,410 acres respectively, or a total of 259,605 acres, of which 486,025 is clay and sandy soil, suitable for farming. The rest is fen and sand. This means that 827 square miles will be wrested from the sea and added to the kingdom of Holland.

FLYING IN FRANKLIN'S DAY.

Benjamin Franklin, who closely reported the aerial experiments he viewed in France in 1783, wrote:

"The Improvement in the Construction and Management of the Balloons had already made a rapid Progress; and one cannot say how far it may go.

"A few Months since the idea of Witches riding thro' the Air upon a Broomstick, and that of Philosophers upon a Bag of Smoke, would have appeared equally impossible and ridiculous.

"These Machines must always be subject to be driven by the Winds. Perhaps Mechanic Art may find easy means to give them progressive Motion in a Calm, and to slant them a little in the Winds."

COAL FAMILY NUMBERS 200

Ammonia, aspirin, carbolic acid, indigo, oil of wintergreen, saccharin toilet water—this isn't a druggist's catalogue. It's just a druggist's memo of a few of the members of the coal tar family.

The chemical department of Barrett & Co., New York, has just presented to the American Museum of Natural History a chart showing this

family tree. More than two hundred direct descendants of Old King Coal are indicated on the chart, and, each in its proper place, the descendants are represented by typical specimens.

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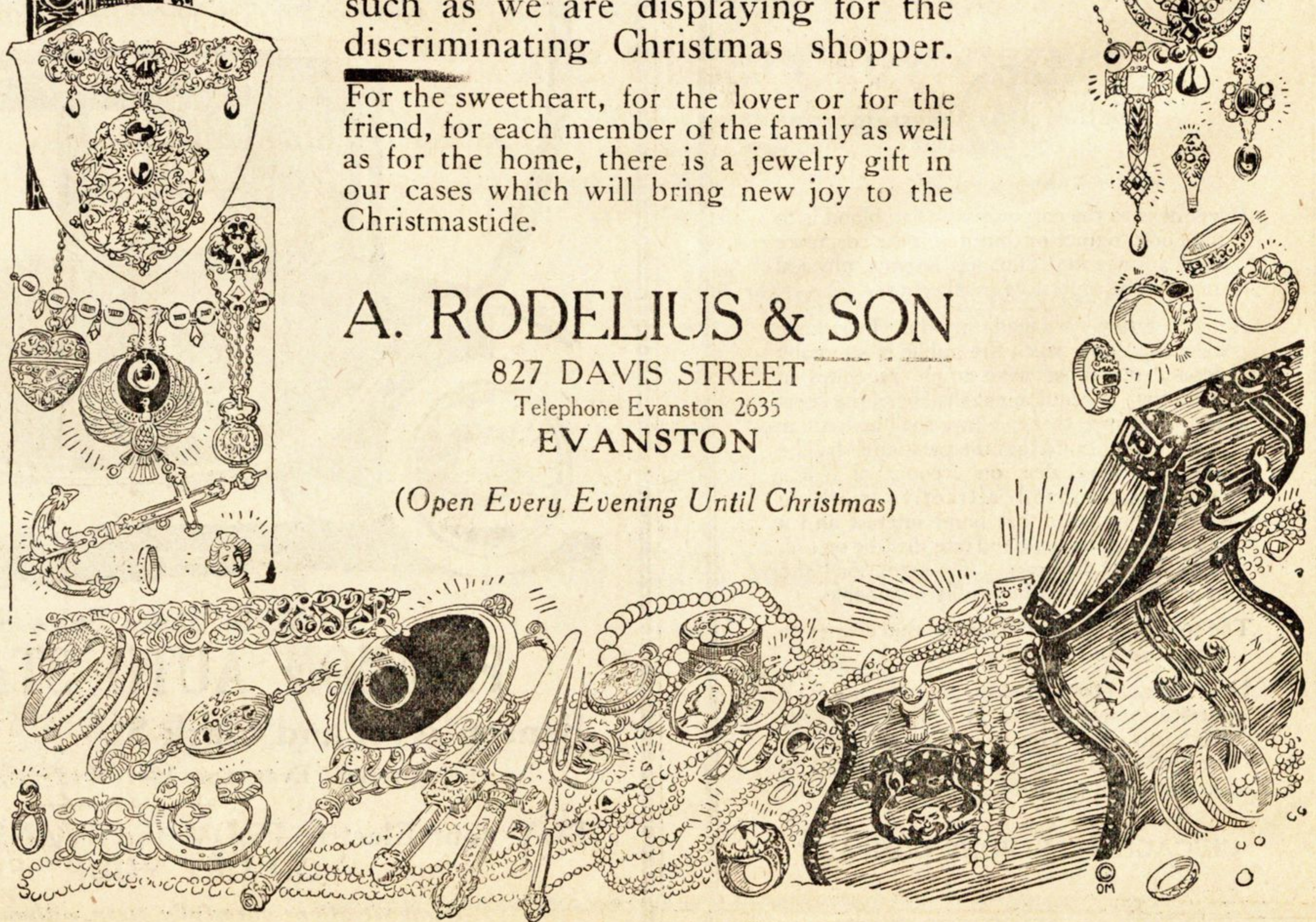
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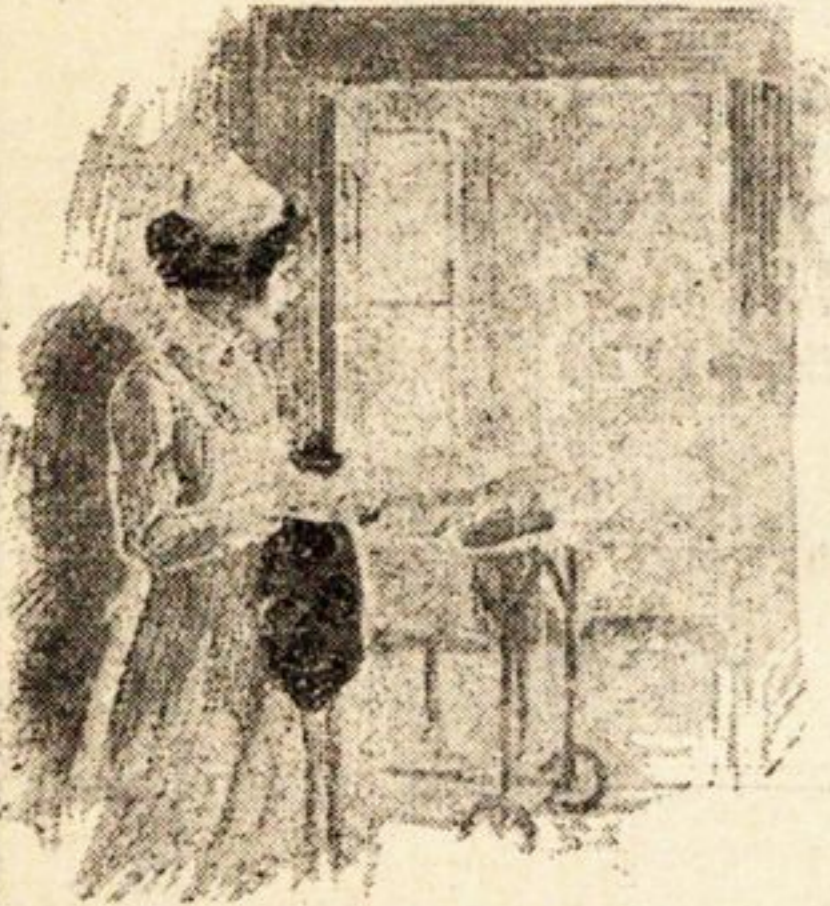
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