

## IS A MODEL.

Why the Constitution of the United States is Best Type.

The constitution of the United States remains the best type of a written constitution.

It is brief but it is also comprehensive, and not a line of legislation can be found in it, says the New York World. The executive power is all centered in the executive. The legislative power is all centered in the congress. The judicial power is all centered in the judiciary. There is no division of responsibility except insofar as the senate has a check upon the president's appointments and shares the treaty-making power, and the president through the veto, has a check upon the legislation enacted by congress.

The powers relegated to the federal authority are specifically enumerated. The inhibitions upon the power of congress and of the States are clearly defined.

In spite of all the conflicts between loose constructionists and strict constructionists, the constitution has never required amendment in any of its essential provisions. Except for an alteration in the method of electing the president and another alteration in the method of electing United States senators, the original constitution remains untouched. The other amendments have added powers, but they have made no change in the original structure.

State constitutions are forever undergoing revisions because they lack the simplicity of the federal structure. They do not centre the executive power in the governor. They do not centre the legislative power in the legislature; for these State constitutions are themselves stuffed with legislation. The judiciary has no clear charter.

In the legislation manual of New York the constitution of the United States, with its annotations, occupied 34 pages, and the constitution of the State of New York with its annotations, occupies 114 pages. It is no exaggeration to say that half of the New York constitution is devoted to matters which ought to be left to the legislature under well-defined restrictions upon legislative powers.

Most State constitutions are framed in distrust of the governor, of the legislature and of the people themselves. In other words, they are framed in distrust of republican self-government. In that respect they are the very antithesis of the federal constitution.

## The Northern Gibraltar.

It is only a quarter of a century, writes a contributor to Fields, since Helgoland was an English possession. A British force seized the barren rock in 1807, during hostilities with Denmark, which used to own it; and such was its strategical importance that England insisted on keeping it at the end of the war.

Helgoland is opposite the mouth of the Elbe and Weser rivers, and is twenty-eight miles from the nearest point on the mainland. There are really two islands, and they are important because they command the approaches to Hamburg and Bremen, and the entrance to the Kiel canal.

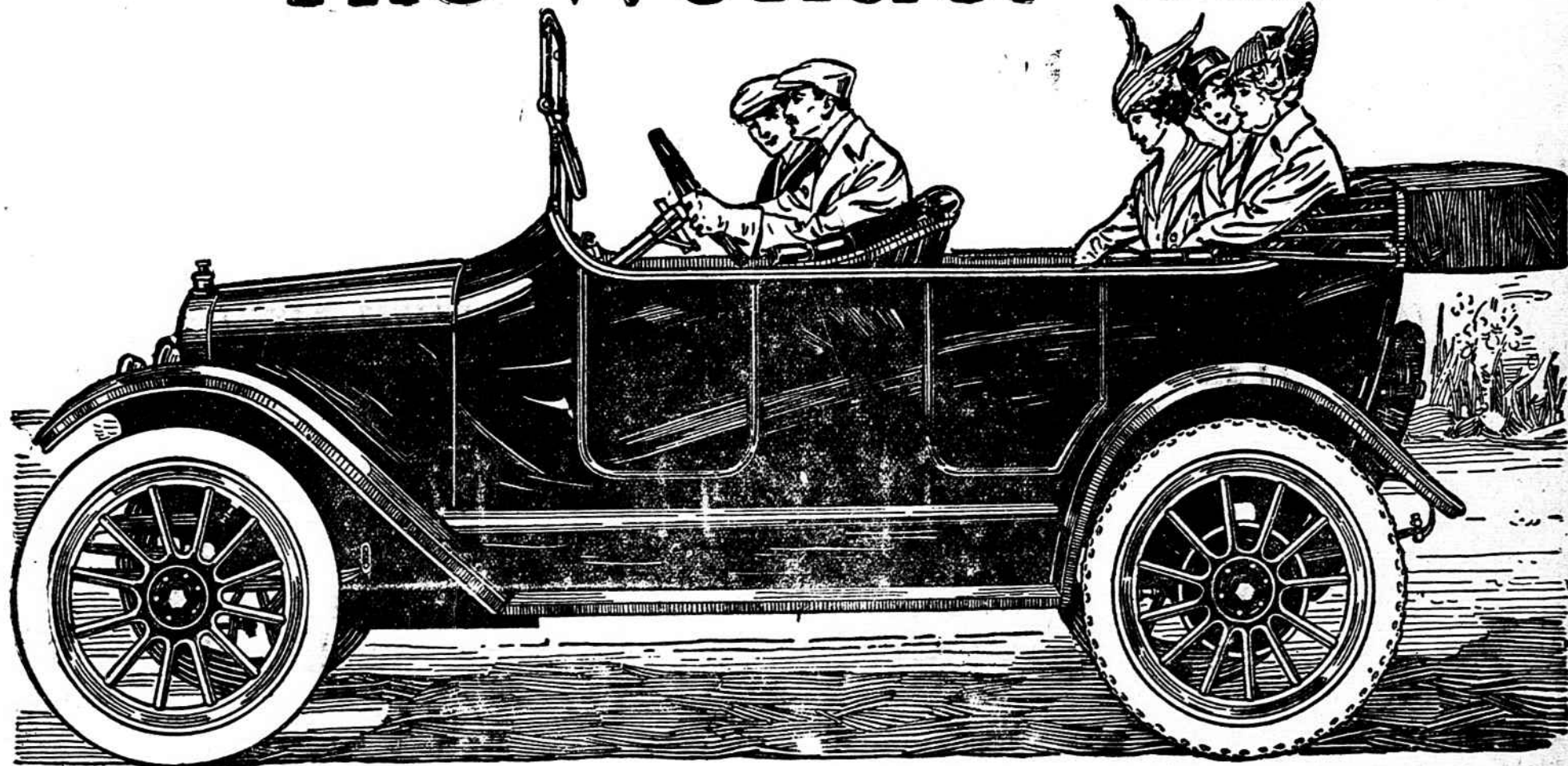
The main island is a huge rock about a mile in length by some five hundred yards wide, with steep red cliffs that rise two hundred feet above sea level. A channel a quarter of a mile wide separates the main rock from a little islet called Sand Island, or Duen-Insel. The landing place is at the southeast corner of the island, where a sandy spot called the Uterland is connected with the top of the cliffs, or oberland, by a long flight of steps and an elevator. There is a resident population of nearly four thousand, and during the summer months forty thousand holiday makers visit Helgoland for the bathing from the "dune."

The German occupation dates from 1890. In that year the British and German governments made an agreement by which Germany engaged to recognize a protectorate of Great Britain over the island of Zanzibar and Pemba, and the dominions of the Sultan of Witu and the adjacent territory up to Kismayu; and Great Britain engaged to cede Helgoland to Germany. The islands were fortified in the days of the British occupation, but the Germans have greatly strengthened the works since they got possession of them. They have replaced the British batteries by armed turrets mounting guns of heavy calibre, and they have spent large sums on the harbor works. Helgoland is one of the strongest strategic defenses of the short but marvelously protected German coast on the North sea.

The sea, however, steadily wearing Helgoland away. In 800 A. D. it was 120 miles in circumference. By 1300 it had decreased to a circumference of forty-five miles, and by 1649, it covered only four square miles. At present it is hardly one-third of one square mile in area.—Youth's Companion.

# Maxwell

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