

DUTIES OF A BEST MAN

June the Marriage Month Draws Near and There Are Several Interesting Weddings Planned for Prince Rupert.

The groom must be careful to procure the marriage license in good season. In Prince Rupert it is not necessary for the young couple to go together to secure this. The bridegroom also arranges with the clergyman for the performance of the marriage ceremony.

The fee is paid by the bridegroom. It varies in accordance with his means, from \$5 to \$100, or even more if he is a rich man. The fee should be in gold, or else in a check, the former being usually preferred. It should be inclosed in an envelope, addressed to the clergyman. The bridegroom entrusts both this and the wedding ring to the best man.

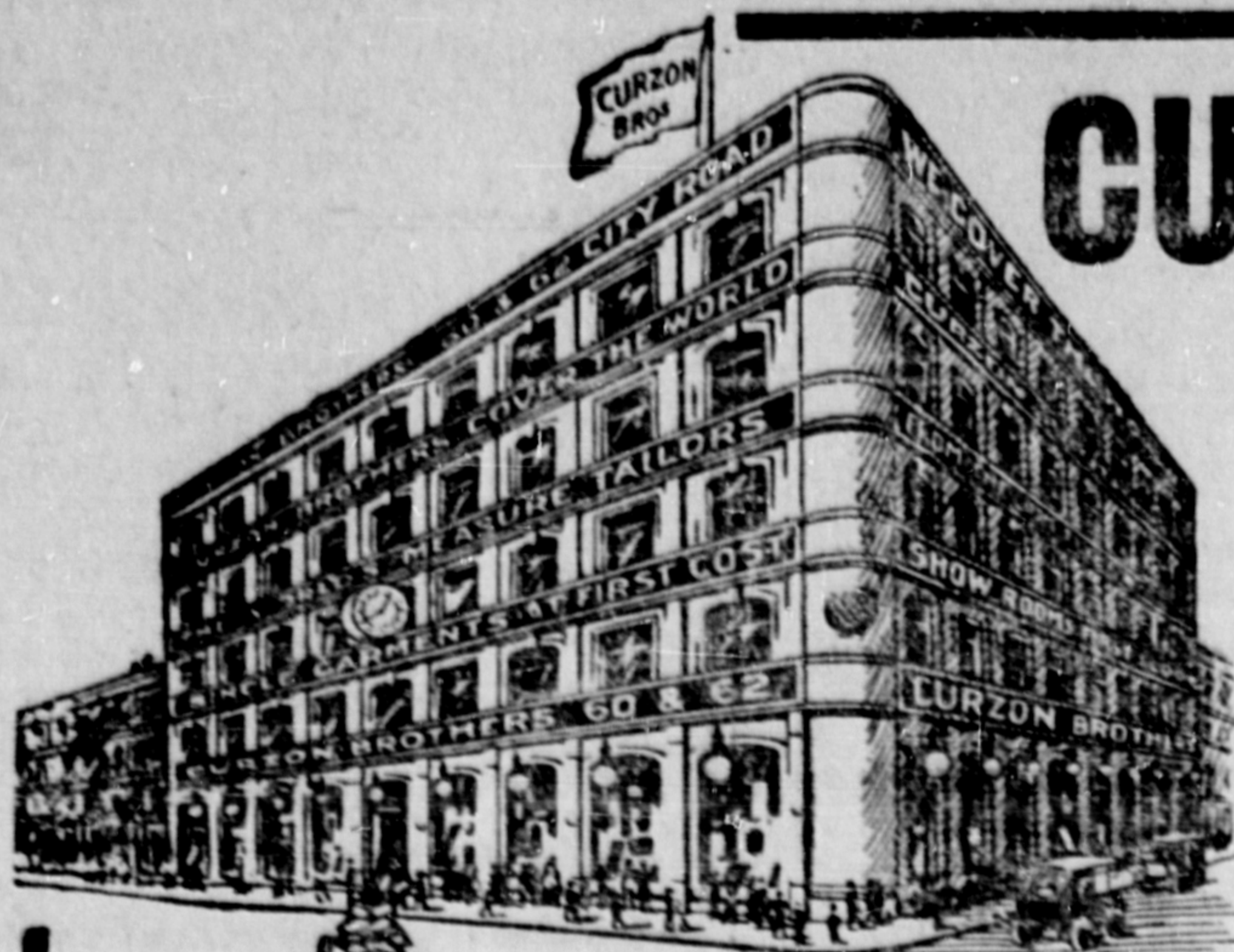
The person chosen for this office should be cool and collected. His duties are not very onerous, but it is a part of them to be calm. Bridegrooms are apt to be nervous, and the chief duty of the best man is to keep his friend in countenance and to be his right hand man throughout the day.

He should be at the rooms of the groom in good season to help him dress and to pack his trunk or bag should this be necessary. The best man accompanies his friend to the church and remains near him throughout the ceremony. He hands the ring to the clergyman when the latter asks for it, and also gives the fee.

He helps the bridal couple to slip away as quietly as possible when they leave the house at the close of the reception. He often buys the tickets and arranges the plans for the wedding trip.

He goes to the station, checks the baggage and sees his friends off on the train. Or he engages rooms for them in a hotel in the same city. He guards carefully the secret of where the honeymoon is to be spent. He is often asked to put the notices of the marriage in the newspapers. His costume is like that of the bridegroom and ushers.

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WHAT WIRELESS DOES TODAY

Sea Captains Are No Longer as Autocratic in Power as Previously—Facilities Bring Them in Touch with Authorities.

Wireless telegraphy has already a practical scope of six thousand miles. Daily news despatches are flashed across the Atlantic, the Pacific has been spanned, the world-wide possessions of empires have been connected, and it is not beyond hope

that when the invention has been nationalized and perfected it will lead to a better understanding between nations and peoples.

Wireless telegraphy is giving birth to new legal rights and social changes. The altered position of a ship's master and the rights acquired by other persons, underwriters, passengers and others, through the correspondence which this invention establishes between ship and shore are vital. Until it came into use the captain, on account of his isolation at sea was necessarily absolute, and law recognized what necessity imposed.

He is now no longer isolated and cannot remain absolute.

Grave questions under this head are bound to arise. He is now in the position of any ambassador connected by cable with his foreign office; of General Kitchener in the Boer war; of Admiral Sampson in the Spanish-American war; of Kuropatkin in the Russo-Japanese war; all of which conflicts were in more or less measure conducted by distant administrations equipped with the means of telegraphic communication.

The captain of a ship may be ordered to change his course, return to port or conform to some other direction of his owners. The practice of printing the daily political news, mar-

ket quotations, etc., on board the Atlantic liners has conferred new rights upon the passengers. Important financial and political transactions are communicated between ship and shore. Has the captain any longer the right to obstruct, suppress, delay or censor them? Is he still absolute? It would seem not. Yesterday he could lawfully hang a man for mutiny. Dare he do so today with a dozen ships within wireless call?

When a Roman general led his legions so far away from the capital that ready communication with him was impracticable the authority of the Senate was replaced by the supernal author-

ity called the imperium, and this extended even to the coining of money, that most characteristic mark of national sovereignty. So long as he remained isolated the imperator was absolute. When he came in touch with the Senate his imperium disappeared. It looks as though the "wireless" will work a similar modification of authority upon the commanders of ships.

Above and beyond these considerations soars the higher one, that the wireless system promises to promote a new social phase one that will admit all the world, whether on land or sea, to a common communion, with like knowledge, like aspirations

and a universal desire for peace accord and good will.

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