

# ROOF IN RUSSIA REMAINS PUZZLE OF ENGINEERING

Imperial Riding Academy  
Building Top Without  
Supports.

By United Press  
MOSCOW, Feb. 18.—Russia's "house of cards" still holds its secret. The magic construction of the old Imperial Riding Academy's room, which doesn't have a beam, brace or pillar, has again baffled architects and engineers who tried to find out how it was put together.

The roof of this huge old building apparently is carefully built up of small pieces of wood, each not more than one square foot in size, fitted and woven together to make a pliant, unsupported roof of great size and strength which has successfully withstood the weight of scores of Russian snowstorms and which still shows no signs of deterioration.

From the tankard floor of the great riding hall to the under-surface of the slightly-arched flexible room, no beams, no braces, no supports of any kind break the fine line of the building's interior. It is the only construction of its kind in existence. It was built long ago by a clever Russian engineer, who died without

## A Forceful Man in the Minority



examined the construction in an effort to discover the magic combination, but they have learned nothing. They cannot even discover where the keystone lies, the last block inserted by the artful builder years ago which holds the entire surface together, nor can they learn the exact shape of the separate pieces.

They dare not cut into the roof to take out one of the bits of wood for examination, lest the removal of a single piece should cause the entire roof to slide and tumble down like a house of cards.

The building is now used as a garage for government automobiles, but it will again be used as a riding hall and stable, as it is feared the vibration of automobiles may injure the roof.

## SETS PRISONERS FREE IN BRAZIL

President Releases Political  
Captives.

By United Press  
RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 18.—Only a few months have passed since Dr. Washington Luis took over the presidency of Brazil, but more has been accomplished during that period toward political pacification of the country than was done in the entire six years prior to his inauguration.

Among President Luis' first moves divulging the secret of interlocking the small pieces of wood which make the roof.

Now once again architects have after he took office was the release

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