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## RALPH MODJESKI.

### A PROMINENT CIVIL ENGINEER OF CHICAGO, AND AN EXPERT IN BRIDGE AND RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION.

**R**ALPH MODJESKI (spelled, in Polish, *Modrzejewski*, but changed to *Modjeski* for American naturalization of his mother and himself) is the descendant of a noble Polish family of artistic proclivities. His grandfather on his mother's side was a musician, his mother, *Helena Modjeska*, the celebrated dramatic artist, and his father, while engaged in commercial business, also owned a theatre in *Czernonitz, Budkowitz, Austria*. Ralph was born at *Cracow, Poland*, on *January 27, 1861*, where he was educated. He came to



RALPH MODJESKI,  
Chicago, Ill.

Photo. by Cox.

America with his mother in 1876, and settled on a ranch in California. This venture not proving as successful as was hoped for, Ralph's mother returned to the stage in San Francisco, while he was sent to Paris to complete his education, entering the Government College of Bridges and Roads, whence he graduated in 1885, at the head of his class, carrying off a prize, and immediately thereafter returned to the United States, and was engaged as Assistant

Engineer on the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge at Omaha, and has ever since made a specialty of bridge construction and design, and therein achieved a gratifying success. He has been engaged in a number of large undertakings at Cairo, Nebraska City, Memphis and other places.

Since 1892, Mr. Modjeski has been located at Chicago, during which time he has been engaged as Consulting Bridge Engineer for various railroads. He designed and built the new Government bridge at Rock Island, Illinois; designed all recent bridge work, together with a complete set of standards for the Northern Pacific Railway, and was also engaged as Consulting Engineer for the city of Chicago on its bascule bridges. More recently he has been appointed jointly with Mr. Alfred Noble, Chief Engineer for the Southern Illinois & Missouri Bridge Company, who are constructing, on the Mississippi River, at Thebes, Illinois, one of the largest bridges in the United States.

Mr. Modjeski is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, also of the Western Society of Engineers, the Association Amicale des Ingenieurs Civils des Ponts et Chaussées de France, and the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association, and also a member of the Technical, Union League, and Homewood Country, all of Chicago; also of the Art Institute, of the same city. He was married in 1885 to Miss Felicie Benda, and has three children.

SPAIN'S KING ALFONSO'S coronation is to be commemorated by the issue of thirteen new kinds of postage stamps, each of which is to bear the head of one of the thirteen Kings of the same name who have ruled over Spain.

GENERAL O. O. HOWARD, in a reminiscent mood, says of the twenty-seven commanders of Union armies during the Civil War only two survive, General Schofield and himself. Thirty-seven years makes a great change in conditions.

THE duration of an ordinary wink is four-tenths of a second. And yet what a lot of mischief it sometimes creates.