

AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES BEST

Their Superiority is to Be Proved at a Meeting of British Engineers.

Some interesting figures agent the relative merits of American and English locomotives have been given by M. E. Jefford, an American engineer, who has just returned from Russia, where he was engaged in connection with the construction of a new railway. These figures will be given in a paper to be read before one of the leading engineering institutions of Great Britain in a few days.

Comparing the New York Central with the London & Northwestern, Mr. Jefford shows that where the freight rate of the latter is \$4 cents a ton for a mile, that of the former is only 3.4 cents, while the expenses relatively are 1.25 cents and 0.34 cents. Yet, despite this disproportion in favor of the English system, the result shows that the English locomotive earned only \$4,138, whereas the American earned \$6,361. Yet, according to statements heard at a general meeting of English railway shareholders, the experiment of importing American locomotives is not likely to be continued, as they are far inferior to the home-made article.

Mr. Jefford's paper further shows that while the New York Central has reduced working expenses 75 per cent. since 1870, the British railway is now working at a higher rate.

BIG SIXTEEN-INCH GUN.

Nearly Finished and Will Be Sent to the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo.

It has been decided to send the big 16-inch gun, which has been under construction at the Watervliet arsenal, N. Y., and which is nearly completed, to the Buffalo exposition. It is the largest modern gun in the country, and one of the largest ever built in the world. There ought to be a good deal of interest in this gun, which has cost the government a great deal of money, and which has represented several years of hard work and some unsuccessful attempts to assemble the gun. The gun has a radius of 21 miles. Ordnance officers say it is an impracticable sea-coast rifle, and that it cannot be used with any success in actual service. It was intended when built as a type gun, and it was expected that others of the same caliber would be built, to form a formidable battery for the coast defenses of New York city.

Since the gun has been under construction, however, the ordnance authorities have discovered that it is of no more value than the 12-inch gun, and that probably for purposes of destruction a shorter range rapid-fire ordnance will be quite as effective as the heavier gun.

GERMAN PAYS FOR A KISS.

Little Girl Comes of Age and Forces Him to Fulfill a \$100 Contract.

A German has just had to pay \$100 for a kiss under peculiar circumstances. He was sitting in a Paris cafe with a friend in 1899 when the latter's daughter came in. She was a pretty little girl and the German asked for a kiss. The girl refused. The German said if she would give him a kiss he would pay her 500 francs on the day of her majority. The little girl accepted the contract, to which numerous persons present were witnesses, and the momentous kiss took place. Recently the girl came of age and demanded the fulfillment of the contract. The German had cooled down since and refused to pay. Litigation followed, and finally the court of appeals sentenced him to pay up, a mere kiss not being an immoral contract, and therefore liable to payment like any other.

NINE BABIES IN THREE YEARS

Remarkable Record Established by a Former New York Woman.

Mme. Desboges, formerly Harriet Lancaster, of New York, the other day gave birth to triplets. This is the third time that the same thing has happened to her. She was married exactly three years and three months ago and has nine children, and all boys and healthy. The father joyfully hopes that the next arrival will complete the dozen and break the record. Harriet Lancaster studied painting in New York until she was 18. Then she came here and married three years later. M. Desboges is an architect. Mme. Desboges herself continued to paint, but when she saw how her family was growing she abandoned art to devote her whole time to her children.

Lengths Limited by Hairs. The lengths of the hairs of the gowns which will be worn by the British peeresses of the realm at the coronation will vary according to rank. A duchess will have a train three yards long. A marchioness 2 1/2 yards. Countesses are limited to a one-yard train. Only peeresses in their own right—that is to say, who owe their peerage not to marriage, but to their birth, or else to a special grant by the sovereign to them in person, will have the right to have their trains borne by a page, who must not be over the age of 14.

Buffalo, a village until 1832, and at the date of its incorporation as a city having a population of only 8,000, is now the second city of New York. Its population, now 352,000, was only 42,000 in 1854.

A PERILOUS RIDE.

Operator Clings to Outer Hand Rail of Pullman Coach During a Fast Run of Fifteen Miles.

John Van Akin, Erie telegraph operator at Lackawanna, Pa., had a fearful ride on the outer step of a closed Pullman car of a vestibule train, clinging to the outer hand rail, and riding to Pond Eddy, Pa., a distance of 15 miles, before he was rescued from his perilous position. Van Akin left his home at Lackawanna to go to Port Jervis. He reached the Pullman car as the train was moving and just as the porter had closed the small side door that protrudes over the steps. As the train increased its speed, rounding the many sharp curves on the Delaware division and his body bent outward, he realized his dangerous situation, and clung with desperation until Pond Eddy was reached, when a trainman discovered his predicament, unfastened the doors, and rescued him.

In the meantime his mother, who saw him clinging to the car as the train moved out of Lackawanna, believing that he could not possibly retain his hold, went to the signal tower and messages were sent along the line asking freight crews to look out for her son's body along the track.

At Rosas the train was stopped by special orders to let Van Akin off if he was still hanging to the car, but the operator, though his nerves were considerably unstrung by his frightful experience, continued his ride to Port Jervis, and returned home at noon.

AGED GYPSY QUEEN DEAD.

After More Than a Century of Wandering Anna Stankonic Passes Away.

After 107 years of wandering, Anna Stankonic, once queen of a big band of Hungarian gypsies in Europe, died in Cleveland, O., the other day. She passed away in a tent surrounded by a number of rough-looking gypsies and a crowd of unwashed, frowny gypsy girls. In the afternoon her body was placed in a small tent, one side of which was pulled back. Half a dozen greasy candles sputtered and burned in a vain attempt to compete with the bright rays of the sun. Nobody paid the least attention to the corpse.

Anna Stankonic was born in Orszag, Hungary, and was queen of a big tribe there for years. During the Napoleonic wars she was wandering over Europe, and was wont to tell many stories of her adventures with the armies. The old queen's tribe went to England and thence came to America, where she abdicated in favor of her daughter, now in Chicago. Her son-in-law by marriage with her daughter became king of the tribe.

The funeral was held at sundown, and as the procession left the camp, her husband, 97 years old, took out a well-worn pocketbook and emptied it into his hands, a dozen or more ten-dollar gold pieces. He chuckled and crooned to himself as he caressed the shining coins.

PIETY AND FULL STOMACH.

Dr. Parkhurst in Sermon Declares That the Former Disappears When the Latter Exists.

Dr. Parkhurst preached a sermon in the Madison Square Presbyterian church, New York city, in which he satirized the attitude of the ordinary human being regarding prayer. "It is one of the facts that must be reckoned with," observed Dr. Parkhurst, "that, naturally, deroutness goes out of our hearts just as fast as comfort comes into our bodies. And that fact is expressed in a very practical and concrete way, when I say I believe I never sat down to more than one table, where the blessing was asked at the end of the meal.

"We thank God when we are hungry and forget Him when we have had enough. It is, in fact, a great problem how to keep the body in prime condition without its costing the soul, and to keep the soul in prime condition without its pauperizing the body. And the problem is not very often solved. There used to be appointed days of fasting and prayer, and they were based upon the idea that piety is incompatible with a full stomach."

DEER IN PARIS PARK.

Society Women Returning from Longchamp Are Given a Scare by the Herd.

The fashionable throng returning from Longchamp had an exciting experience the other day. Just as the carriages were bowing up the Allée des Acacias a herd of deer rushed across the road, causing the wildest commotion.

Horses reared and the fair occupants of the carriages screamed. Then the sylvan vision disappeared. Few people knew that there are exactly 24 deer in the Bois de Boulogne.

Talking of wild life in public parks reminds us of a crusade now started against pigeons in the Luxembourg gardens. The enormous wood pigeons there have become so numerous as to seriously inconvenience the students and nurse girls, not to speak of an occasional senator. So the pigeons must go.

Works Both Ways. A company has been formed at Wichita, Kan., to manufacture a preparation extracted from alfalfa, which is guaranteed to make thin people fat and fat people thin.

THE NIAGARA RIVER.

Special Map of It Prepared by United States Geological Survey.

To Be Distributed at Pan-American Exposition Accompanied by Interesting History of the Turbulent Stream.

A map of the Niagara river has just been issued by the geological survey and is to form part of the display of that department at the Pan-American exposition, where it is intended to give it away to visitors. The map itself is said to be one of the finest ever made by the department and has, accompanying it, an exhaustive and interesting account of the river by Dr. G. K. Gilbert, the distinguished geologist of the survey, who is considered the greatest living authority upon Niagara Falls and who began his study of it 30 years ago.

In speaking of the turbulent stream, the home of Niagara Falls, Dr. Gilbert says:

"Niagara river is the outlet of Lake Erie and flows northward 34 miles to Lake Ontario. The vertical descent from lake to lake is 327 feet. The average flow of water is 222,000 cubic feet per second. The river, turbulent as it is, is navigable from its head for a distance of 17 miles to Chippewa, is broken by its descent to the falls, but again becomes navigable at Lewiston and from there to its mouth, a distance of seven miles, is open to navigation. It affords enormous water power, of which 5,000,000 horse power is readily available, and 85,000 horse power already has been utilized."

Dr. Gilbert says of the age of the river:

"One may say with confidence that 7,000 years, the usual reckoning of the age of the river, is entirely too small, but whether the real age is expressible in tens of thousands or in hundreds of thousands of years is at present a matter of doubt."

This map is to form a part of the topographic atlas of the whole United States in course of preparation by the survey, the stupendous undertaking of which can be understood better when it is shown that 20 years already have been spent upon it, and it is still only one-third finished. A note printed upon the back of the map just mentioned says:

"Full information in regard to the atlas of the United States may be obtained by addressing the director of the survey." As this looks promising to the collectors of valuable public documents who always are greedy for their share they apply and look somewhat abashed to have put in an application 20 or 30 years ahead of an issue.

OBJECTS TO EMPTY TITLES.

John W. Foster Criticizes the Act of Congress Creating Ambassadors.

"The United States has never needed high-sounding titles for ambassadors. Congress passed and act giving them such, but did not add to their salaries enough to make them remunerative with their duties. This sort of thing is unnecessary for a republic. It makes a bone of contention for the rich, which the repeal of the act of 1893 would do away with.

"It is a sad day for the republic when its high offices can be filled by only rich men and cannot be a reward to the best men for their high services."

This was the principal thought expressed by ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster, who opened the Storrs lectures at Yale the other night, by the first of a series on the topic, "The Practice of Diplomacy." He treated exhaustively the act of congress passed in 1893 giving its college minister the title of ambassador. He spoke of the efforts of Secretaries of State Bayard, Frelinghuysen and Macy in opposition to the plan, and then stated that it had been generally deplored since its adoption.

FINDS STRANGE NEW ANIMAL.

British Commissioner in Uganda Sends to the Museum in London a Stray Specimen.

Harry Johnson, special commissioner of Uganda, reports the established existence in the Semliki forests of a peculiar ruminant thought to be long extinct. Fossilized remains of this animal have been found plentifully in Greece and it has been hitherto called Helladotherium. A complete skin and two skulls are now on their way to England for the British museum.

The natives call this animal the Okapi. It is a giraffe-like creature, which is closely akin to the ox in size. The neck is a little longer proportionately than that of a horse, the ears like those of an ass, with silky black fringes, the head taper-like, and the nostrils like those of the giraffe.

The forehead is a vivid red and the neck, shoulders, stomach and back a deep reddish brown. Parts of the animal are almost crimson and others blackish blue. The hind quarters and legs are boldly striped in purplish black and white. The animal is hornless, although there are traces of three horn cores.

A Milkmaid's Club. At Palmyra, Mo., the milkmaids have formed a club. We have not been able to learn its object, says the Chicago Record-Herald, but it is probably to make the men do the milking.

Bactericides. There are 20,000 different kinds of bacteria.

INDIVIDUALITY IN JAPAN.

It is So Strong in the People That Are Not Only Imitators, But Have Ideas of Their Own.

The Japanese have so long been called "imitators" that the term sounds trite. But it is one of those trite expressions of a half truth. As a matter of fact, says Anna N. Benjamin, in *Almslee's*, it is impossible for a race which has such a strong individuality to be merely imitative. Its wonderful metamorphosis of the last 30 years cannot be accounted for by such a simple statement. The Japanese imitate, yes; but what they imitate becomes a part of them, and as it is absorbed it is adapted and changed. How else could the country through thousands of years have remained so absolutely different from every other country? Again and again it received impulses from Corea and China; its very shutting itself off from the west was an individual act which showed strength. Its final frank admission that in many ways the west was ahead of it requires quite as much, I think, of a "jiriki-isha" man in Tokio who talked learnedly with one of his pan-American colleagues on the subject of history, literature, etc. The man was much impressed, and asked the coolie to leave his work and come to live in his house, where he might study. The coolie thought a little while, and then replied that he could not because he would be obliged to give up his individuality. As it was, nobody expected anything of him, and therefore he could live just as he liked. It was better so. He knew also a talented artist who was trained in the exquisite art of block cutting for prints. When the revolution of 1868 took away his employment, he found that he could no longer pursue his calling according to his old ideals. Rather than give these up, he decided to be a boatman, and for years plied a craft, like a common coolie, up and down the Sumida river. Then a publisher who recognized his talent made a place of responsibility for him in his establishment, and the artist-boatman returned to his old work in the old way, his ideals undimmed.

NICKELS FOR CAR FARE.

Uncle Sam Appropriated a Quarter of a Million Dollars for Letter Carriers.

"A five-cent piece is not much in itself, but when piled in heaps with millions of other round pieces of copper and nickel alloy it goes toward making up the pyramid," said a postal official to a Washington Star reporter.

The government appropriates \$1,000,000 nickel pieces in the form of \$255,000 for car fare for letter carriers in the different cities where the free delivery service is established. "It was formerly the practice, in Washington to supply the carriers with car tickets. Several carriers were suspended for appropriating tickets from their allowances for purposes other than their official. An arrangement was made some time ago with one of the car companies to transport all carriers over its lines when going to and returning from their deliveries in uniform for a lump sum yearly. This arrangement has been found to work admirably in Washington, as it saves a great many hours of the carriers' time and removes all temptation on the score of applying the tickets to personal use or otherwise disposing of them.

"This is the reason why carriers in Washington do not pay fare on the cars," as has been often observed in the street cars. The same rule is in force in Denver and Detroit and other cities, and it works well where tried."

AWNINGS IN BIG LOTS.

It Takes a Great Number to Supply Some of New York's Big Modern Buildings.

"To supply some of the big modern buildings with awnings," said an awning maker to a New York Sun man, "costs as much as it would to build a moderate-sized house.

"Not all of the great buildings require awnings. Some of the very largest have their principal exposure in such a direction that they are not needed, the sun not shining on these windows during the hours the offices are occupied. And then, of course, there are great buildings that do not require awnings on some sides, but need them on others; or in courts and so on.

"Here, for instance, is a building with about 1,000 windows, of which 600 or thereabouts are supplied with awnings.

"Another building I have in mind has about 1,600 windows. I don't know how many awnings they have there, but if it is supplied in the same proportion as the other, that would give it about 1,000 awnings. I dare say, in that fact, you would find in the city single buildings with more than a thousand awnings.

"You see, just the awnings for some of these great modern buildings amount to quite an item."

Gifts to a College. Allegheny college, at Meadville, Pa., has a gift from an anonymous donor of \$50,000, conditioned on the raising of \$45,000 additional by the college before January 1, 1902. Within a short time the college has been given the Newton observatory, the Ford Memorial chapel, and a \$30,000 library building, the last two also from an anonymous donor.

Sale of Angora Goats. At a recent sale of Angora goats at Kansas City good prices were realized. The little animals were mostly from New Mexico, and brought from \$2.15 to \$25 a head.

WANTS NEW LAWS.

Immigration Commissioner Powderly Desires Scope of His Bureau Enlarged to Correct an Evil.

For the purpose of preventing the abuses of the naturalization laws, Commissioner Powderly, wants the scope of the bureau of immigration enlarged to embrace a record of departure of aliens and he desires legislation providing for the use of such data obtained by the immigration officials as would prevent the violation of those laws.

Mr. Powderly has recommended already that congress enact legislation of this character. In discussing this subject Mr. Powderly used rather strong language. He said: "The naturalization of aliens, which should be one of the most important functions of somebody, now is left to nobody until the alien himself, thinks fit, or some politician, who expects to think and vote for him, believes he should become a citizen. Then the courts, are appealed to, but no other tribunal has anything to do or say in the matter."

The commissioner thinks the difficulty could be removed by a measure by requiring an alien, on his arrival, to say if it is his purpose ultimately to renounce allegiance to his own country and become an American citizen. If the alien answers in the affirmative, the commissioner says, it should be made a matter of record which should be used at the expiration of the five years' residence required before naturalization papers are given. If, on the other hand, the alien declares it is not his intention to become naturalized he should be required to state his purpose in coming and this fact should be recorded.

"In either case," said Mr. Powderly, "the greatest care should be exercised in ascertaining his fitness to land."

INDIANS HOLD COAL LANDS.

Deposits in Indian Territory Held by Them Are of Immense Value.

Some idea of the value of the coal deposits in Indian territory can be gained when it is known the average thickness of the vein is four feet, which will produce 4,000 tons an acre. These lands are leased in lots of 940 acres each, which means that 1,500,000 to 4,000,000 tons can be produced by those leasing the land. On this output the lessees pay a royalty of eight cents a ton. The output during the last year was 1,900,137, as against 1,400,428 tons the previous year. In order to protect the interests of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians, the policy of the interior department has been to grant leases for coal mining operations in the territory only to such persons or corporations as will furnish satisfactory evidence that the applications for the leases are made in good faith, for operative as against speculative purposes, with satisfactory evidence that a market will be provided to the extent of a fair estimate for the coal covered by the lease.

The purpose of the department is to secure the rightful owners of the coal the full amount which the operators would, under the law and in justice to the owner, pay for the privilege granted. These leases run for 30 years.

Owing to the rich deposits leases are granted to such an extent and upon such terms as will avoid tying up this valuable property, and by doing so rendering it unproductive for the long period of years for in the leases. This is done for the further purpose of preventing the use of these leases for collateral assets for the purpose of building railroads through the territory.

TRAINLOAD OF HARVESTERS.

Fifty-Eight Cars Loaded with Farm Machinery Leaves New York for the West.

A train of 58 cars, loaded with harvesting machinery from a New York state factory, has started for the west. This is one of the largest shipments of the kind ever made from one factory, and is one of the trains may be seen by the farmers throughout the country it will be run by day only. It will carry 3,000 harvesting machines, weighing 900 gross tons, the value of the machines being about \$100,000.

The cars will be distributed about as follows: Six will go to Illinois, six to Iowa, one each to Wisconsin and North Dakota, nine to Minnesota, three to Missouri, twelve to Kansas, nine to South Dakota and eleven to Nebraska.

BRITISH BUYING WILD HORSES

Animals Being Captured in British Columbia for Use in South Africa.

Hundreds of horses which have been running wild during the last few years on the plains between Lillooet, Cariboo and Okanagan, in British Columbia, are being captured to be sold to the British government for use in South Africa. An imperial cavalry officer is now at Kamloops buying them as rapidly as they are brought in. The horses are of good size, most of them being mustangs bred with the domestic horse that have been lost by ranchers at various times and joined the wild herds.

Not Yet a Horseless Era. Eighty-seven carriage horses were sold in New York the other day for an average of over \$1,000 each. The horseless era, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, has been indefinitely postponed.

Sugar in Leaves. Sugar exists in the sap of leaves of nearly 200 different kinds of trees.

FOR WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Board of Naval Officers Recommends Its Adoption for Communication Between Naval Stations.

The board of naval officers, headed by Capt. Chadwick, appointed to make a full investigation and report on wireless telegraphy, has completed its work and submitted its report to Admiral Bradford, chief of the naval bureau of equipment, having charge of this subject. It had been expected that the inquiry would last through the summer and the navy department has been somewhat surprised at the promptness with which the board has been able to reach its conclusions. Although the findings are not made public, it is known that the board reports on the entire feasibility of the system and recommends that it be adopted, and that the present system of using carrier pigeons for messages between naval points be abandoned.

With the report the board submits the results of an extended conference with Honor Marconi, the Italian inventor, concerning the general subject of wireless telegraphy. It is understood that Marconi made no proposition regarding his own system, and that the board secured his views as an expert on the general subject. There is no finding in favor of any particular system, but a general treatment of all systems. The board has no doubt that wireless telegraphy will prove a valuable adjunct for the navy.

A MOSQUITO FLEET.

Twenty New Torpedo Boat Destroyers and Torpedo Boats to Be Soon Turned Over to Government.

Twenty torpedo-boat destroyers and torpedo boats will be turned over to the government by contractors within the next four months, says a special from Washington to the New York Herald. The destroyer Decatur will be ready for her preliminary trial in June and the destroyer Dale a month later. The Bainbridge, the Barry and the Chauncy have been advanced to about the same stage. The Lawrence and the McDonough are about completed. The Perry has been tried, but failed to make her speed, and her screws will be altered.

The Paul Jones and the Preble are well along toward completion, but their trials will be delayed that their sterns may be remodeled. The torpedo boats Stringham and Goldsborough have had preliminary trials, but on account of accidents will have to again go over the official course. The Bailey has successfully passed her preliminary trial. The Sturtevant will soon be delivered to the government. The Barney, the Biddle, the Blakely, the De Long and the O'Brien, it is expected, will have their trials this summer.

ON TRAIL OF WIFE DESERTERS.

Authorities of Ramsey County, Minn., Will Try to Secure Requisitions for Them.

The Ramsey county board of control has decided to seek requisition papers in order to secure the return to Minnesota of 30 husbands who have deserted their wives. The last legislature passed a law making wife desertion a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to three years, with a provision for a suspension of sentence provided the delinquent husband shall give a bond to the state to support his wife and family.

The county board of control, which has charge of the county charitable institutions, has had to support a number of families where the husbands have deserted and left the state. They asked for an opinion of the county attorney as to the possibility of securing the deserters' return, and the attorney having decided that this is possible the board will ask for requisitions in 30 cases.

The deserting husbands are located in various states, and the effort to secure their return will doubtless give rise to some novel complications.

WARNED BY RATTLESNAKES.

Maryland Man's Pets Flee to Him for Protection When Fire Breaks Out.

Levi Dorton, aged 75 years, a sturdy mountaineer, yet straight as an arrow, and noted as a rattlesnake tamer, had an unusual experience at his little home in an unfrequented spot in the Alleghenies a few miles west of Grafton, Md., the other morning. About sunrise he was awakened by the fierce rattling of a swarm of snakes about his door.

He could not account for the unusual conduct of his pets, but upon opening the door he discovered a roaring forest fire eating up his fences and outbuildings, and almost leaping in his door. The reptiles, with whom Dorton often played, terrified by the fire, glided in the door and coiled around his legs as if pleading for protection. He pacified them, coaxed them to uncoil, and then by hard work extinguished the fire.

Another Prospective State. The Indian Territory, which increased in population from 190,000 in 1890 to 391,000 in 1900, is an aspirant for the same territorial representation in congress as is now given to its neighbor, Oklahoma, formerly a part of it. The white population of the Indian Territory is largely increasing.

Rice Culture in the South. There will be between 30,000 and 100,000 additional acres of land devoted to rice culture in the south next year.

Plague in India. Recently in one week in Bengal, including Calcutta, 4,000 people died of the plague.