

PENSION POINTERS.

Inquiries Answered and Suggestions Made.

All communications for this column should be accompanied by the true name and correct address of the inquirer. If the name to be used is not the true name, it should be marked as may be desired. No attention will be given to anonymous inquiries. If no reply is printed within three weeks, write again.

L. L. G. West Sumner, Me.—The act of Feb. 26, 1881, as amended by the act of Aug. 7, 1882, provides substantially as follows: "All pensions and arrears of pension payable by the Government to persons who are or may be inmates of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, shall be paid to the Treasurer or other officers of the Home, upon receipt given to the satisfaction of the managers, to be disbursed for the benefit of the pensioners without deduction for fines or penalties under regulations to be established by the managers of the Home, said payment to be made by the pension agent upon a certificate of the proper officer of the Home that the pensioner is an inmate thereof and is still living. Any balance of the pension which may remain at the date of the pensioner's discharge shall be paid to him or to his legal representative."

H. H. R. W. Niles, O.—If a pension claim is ordered reopened by the Secretary of the Interior on an appeal, it should be heard within a few weeks after this decision is rendered.

H. A. H. Redkey, Ind.—A record in the War Department as to the disability for which a soldier was discharged should be amended only under a special act of Congress, no matter how unjust or untrue it may be in fact.

W. W. K. Walter, Va.—When charges of a criminal character are made with reference to a pension, the special examination is secret.

B. V. Helvetia, Va.—When an invalid pensioner under the general law applies for increase on disability not covered by his pension certificate, and later applies for increase on pensioned disability, it depends upon the stage to which the first claim has progressed whether it will be allowed at the same time as the second claim or not.

Mrs. J. V. S. Kansas City, Kan.—If a soldier's wife obtains a divorce from him because of his disability, and she is in his absence, she is debarred from any benefit which might otherwise accrue to her through the act of March 13, 1883, which allows the presumptions of death.

J. H.—There is no fixed time within which claims for pension are required to be acted on in the Pension Bureau after medical examination had. If the examination is otherwise complete, action may ordinarily be looked for within six months after medical examination had, that is drawing pensions.

I. C. G. Akron, Ohio.—A soldier who enlisted in October, 1861, for three years, and was discharged after 15 months' service on account of hernia incurred in the service and line of duty, would be entitled to \$100 original bounty.

W. M. D. Point Pleasant, W. Va.—An attorney may not be supplied by another in a pension claim after the proofs are completed. The first attorney would be entitled to recognition and the fee on the allowance of the claim, notwithstanding that the claimant had sought to revoke the attorneyship by appointing another shortly before the allowance of the claim.

H. B. G. Morrisville, Vt.—When a pensioner signs his voucher by a cross mark, the officer before whom the acknowledgment is taken may not be held responsible for the cross mark. Order No. 225 of the Commissioner of Pensions is lengthy, but has never been amended, and has been reproduced in The National Tribune. In substance it is identical with the decision of the Department in the case of Chas. T. Bennett, who died in 1861, and a system of ratings of invalid pensioners under the act of June 27, 1890, is based. See reply to N. T. K.

S. S. Bridgeville, Cal.—An inquiry filed by a member of Congress in the Pension Bureau usually has the effect of hastening action on a pension claim.

J. M. P. Bolton, Ark.—Twenty-seven dollars is still the rating for total deafness of one ear and nearly total of the other, the rate for total deafness remaining as before.

H. E. M. Joy, Ohio.—A drafted man who ran away to Canada was a deserter, and comes under section 1866, Revised Statutes, which is an old law. All persons who deserted the military or naval service of the United States and did not return thereto or report themselves to a Provost-Marshal within 90 days after the issuance of the proclamation by the President, dated March 11, 1865, are deemed to have voluntarily relinquished and forfeited their rights of citizenship, as well as their right to become citizens; and such deserters shall be forever incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under the United States, or of exercising any rights of citizens thereof. This law declares a deserter from voting at National elections, but not from voting at State elections, or holding office under a State.

A DARING PASSAGE.

Editor National Tribune: I wish to tell of an incident at Dingle Mills, S. C., April 9, 1865, relative to Henry S. Finkenbinder, Co. D, 16th Ohio, who made a daring and most successful trip across a long trestle bridge to ascertain the position of the enemy.

The rebels had been continually fighting us every day from April 5 to April 9, beginning at Georgetown, S. C. On arriving at Dingle Mills at about 1 p. m. on the 9th, we had driven there before us and across this stream. It being swift and deep, it became necessary to make a reconnaissance of the situation before running into a possible trap. There was no other crossing except a few miles to the right.

While this survey was going on to ascertain the position of the enemy to either right or left, Henry S. Finkenbinder, Jacob James, Co. D, and Jacob Brobst, of Co. H, 16th Ohio, volunteered to cross this long trestle bridge, which had been set on fire by the enemy, to locate, if possible, the enemy's position.

They got safely across and so near the enemy's battery, which was hid from their view, that they went within 25 paces of their guns. The brave boys drew up almost in their faces and fired a party volley at the enemy, while we on the opposite side watched with fear that they were surely gone. Quicker than I can write it, the enemy opened with grape and canister, thick and fast, but fortunately our boys were well across and lower than the rebels' aim. But a minute brought down Jacob Brobst while upon this burning structure. Finkenbinder and James,



THE WOUNDING OF JACOB BROBST.

assisted by Warren Umstead, of Co. A, carried Brobst back to the ambulance.

While this reconnaissance was going on, the 15th N. Y., with two colored regiments, went about three miles to the right and made a success at crossing this stream. Our usual march was by the right bank, as the signal was given. Col. Cooper, commanding the 10th, moved across this long trestle bridge and intercepted the brigade which had previously come around to the right. There we captured three brass field-pieces and some prisoners.

After this we went direct to Sumterville, there we found plenty of tobacco and secessionism. We remained at Sumterville until the 11th, when we again took our march to Manchester Station. We crossed a long trestle bridge, about three miles in length, the rear burning it as the rebels came up.

At Singleton's plantation we rejoined the remainder of the command, which had preceded us. At dress parade the following day, April 12, 1865, in General Orders was read:

"In addition we make honorable mention of three privates of this command: Henry S. Finkenbinder, Jacob James, Co. D, and Jacob Brobst, Co. A, 16th Ohio, for their gallant and heroic conduct on the 9th inst. These men were on the advanced skirmish-line, and while within direct range and close fire of the enemy's artillery crossed the bridge over the mill race to ascertain the enemy's position. The danger incurred and daring evinced by this conduct are such as reflect the highest military credit on the United States Army. One of them, Jacob Brobst, of Co. A, was wounded, and has since lost his leg; he could not have suffered more gloriously. The Colonel commanding the brigade returns his thanks to these men. He is sure their heroism will be a matter of pride and an object of emulation with his entire command."

This was signed: "By order of P. P. Brown, Jr., Colonel commanding brigade: P. C. Surr, Captain, 16th Ohio, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General."

It is most gratifying to state that Comrade Finkenbinder has been notified recently by the Secretary of War that he will be the recipient of a medal of honor, that was won in the closing days of the war while on this famous Georgetown raid.—J. C. Clay, Sergeant, Co. I, 16th Ohio, Nova, Ill.

Boston Gates at Andersonville. Many improvements have taken place at Andersonville since the W. R. C. assumed possession. In addition to the tract which had been decided to them by the Georgia Department, G. A. R., the W. R. C. has purchased 1 1/2 acres, making a total of 22 1/2 acres. This has been included by a most substantial fence at a cost of about \$550. Comrade Wm. Wilson has been appointed superintendent, and a house for his use and for the reception of visitors has been completed. The tangled growth of bushes along the creek is being cleared away, and the inside of the Stockade is to be covered with a green sod.

The old vest of Boston Common, which were erected immediately after the war at a cost of \$100,000, and recently presented to the W. R. C. by the City of Boston for the purpose, will be put in place this Spring at the main western approach to the prison grounds.

The committee is anxious to make improvements as fast as the means can be secured. Among others of importance, they contain a late erection of a fine pavilion over "Providence Spring," a magnificent bronze monument, to be erected by appropriations from Congress and various State Legislatures.

THE RELIEF CORPS.

News and Gossip of the Great Auxiliary.

National Orders for Memorial Day, with suggestions from the National President, are as follows: The Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to an organization composed of the men who by their deeds of valor on land and on sea, made it possible that this should continue one Nation with one flag and with one united people, honors the dead as well as aids the living, scatters blooming flowers over the lowly graves of the veteran whose last long sleep is in that "low green turf which curians never outward swings," as well as watches by the side of the defender to whom the paring of the worlds draw near, and affords relief to victors on a hundred battlefields with whom the battle of life has dealt harshly.

The Woman's Relief Corps remembers that Memorial Day, founded by that typical volunteer soldier and leader, John A. Logan, with its ceremonies and lessons again approaches, and the National President enjoins upon all Departments and all Corps, officers and members that they give cheerfully and unreservedly to the Grand Army of the Republic in the observance of the day so appropriately set apart for the remembrance of the Nation's dead and in the services of the Sunday preceding.

And shall we not remember, too, those of our sisters whose loving hearts and helpful hands, once busy for the good of the Post and Corps, have been stilling forever? Let their graves, too, be adorned by the bloom and fragrance of flowers, as their lives were made beautiful by their deeds of loving kindness and charity.

By command of SARAH J. MAHES, National President. MARY H. SHEPHERD, National Secretary.

The National President calls attention to the recommendation of the Chairman-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, to the effect that the Assistant Adjutant-General of each Department request each year of the President of each Department the names of the members of the Corps attending such services.

The National President also urges Departments and Corps to make liberal contributions to the regular channels to the Grand Army of the Republic, and to the National Cemeteries on Memorial Day.

Contributions to be forwarded through the regular channels to the Quartermaster-General of the Grand Army of the Republic.

MISS WILLARD'S PATRIOTISM. Miss Frances E. Willard was a patriot, and loved the flag with her whole heart.

Though universal in her sympathies and brotherly love, yet no matter how far away she wandered, or under what banner she found temporary protection, she always returned to the home land, loving it above every other and with a new desire to do her part for its freedom and glory.

As someone has well said, the Stars and Stripes were to her an emblem of broader freedom than other countries know, and thus indicated her own great and grand spirit. Her parting words, "Tell the women not to forget the flag," and now that she has gone, women all over this broad land of ours, remembering her words, are taking upon themselves anew the vow to teach the children of the Republic, and now that she has gone, women all over this broad land of ours, remembering her words, are taking upon themselves anew the vow to teach the children of the Republic, and now that she has gone, women all over this broad land of ours, remembering her words, are taking upon themselves anew the vow to teach the children of the Republic.

Miss Willard was a member, there was a marked display of flags when the medals of her were pronounced. One of them was a silk flag with gold fringe, and the standard telling that it was the flag of the World's Columbian Exposition, carried at the head of the Ledyard procession, Oct. 22, 1892. There was also the Peace flag bearing the following inscription: "This flag has traveled over 4,000 miles of this country, and always floats in the interest of liberty, peace and arbitration. It floated over Miss Willard in life, and we float it over her in death."

Miss Willard was a Daughter of the American Revolution, holding her membership in Janesville, Wis., as well as of the Woman's Relief Corps.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—To Department and Corps Correspondents: All matter pertaining to the Woman's Relief Corps meant for publication in this column should be addressed direct to the Editor National Tribune, Washington, D. C.

A Service Pension. W. P. Hickman, Co. K, 76th Ill., member of Nathaniel Lyon Post, Colfax, Wash., does not agree with Comrade Rice, Mansfield Post, 34, Middletown, Conn., that a service pension of \$6 should be granted those veterans under 57, and \$1 per month added for each year over that age. He writes: "A service pension according to length of time in army would be all right. I enlisted in August, 1862, at the age of 19, and carried a medal for three years. I was not in the rear or in the convalescent camp, but at the front by the side of my older comrades. I am just as worthy as they, but for five years would receive only \$5. I think that comrades will agree with me that the young men as a rule were equal to any in the field, full of life and vigor, and seldom asked for a furlough."

THE GRAND ARMY.

What Veterans Are Doing for the Good of the Order.

NEW YORK NOTES. Commander Albert D. Shaw announces that the 23d annual Encampment of the New York Department will convene at Utica, May 18, and remain in session two days. A program of exceptional attractiveness is being arranged, and in view of the central location it is believed that the meeting will be very largely attended, and prove an occasion of great enjoyment to the veterans and their families.

The thanks of the New York Department are extended to Gov. Black by Commander Shaw for the consideration of the rights of the veterans which has marked his administration. The Governor has ordered the reinstatement of old soldiers dropped from the public service, and has shown his willingness to consider pleas for pardon, in worthy cases, where it was just and right to extend executive clemency to veterans who had fallen under the penalty of broken laws.

The Department Commander is gratified to be able to announce that his bill in aid of promoting patriotic exercises in the public schools was passed at the late session of the Legislature, giving the Superintendent of Public Instruction authority to develop a proper system of culture along this educational line. An appropriation was also provided to duly develop this most important work.

Thus promptly except able labors of the Committee on Patriotic Teaching and Civics is rewarded by having their recommendations fully accepted and adopted by the State, and provisions made for carrying them out—results that will cheer every comrade in this Department.

DEPARTMENT DOINGS. James O'Donnell will be presented at the Illinois Encampment as a candidate for Department Commander by Gen. George A. Carter, Post 40, Chicago, W. A. Smith, commander. His service is given as follows in a circular letter issued by the Post: "Comrade O'Donnell enlisted April 18, 1861, in Co. A, 7th Illinois Cavalry, and was the first man in the regiment to buy a 15-shotter, paying \$2 out of his own pocket, as did all members of the Department at the National Encampment every year except one since 1888. No work ever assigned him has been neglected. Though a modest and unassuming man, comrade has ever appealed to him in vain for assistance."

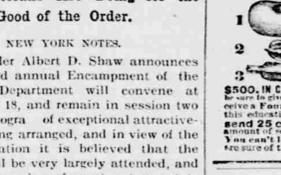
The 19th annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana will convene at Columbus, May 18. Commander-in-Chief Gobin and his staff will be present. A rate of one cent per mile each way has been granted by the Central Traffic Association.

S. V. C. John W. Tingle, J. V. C. Daniel White, Ass't. Ad'j. Gen. R. M. Smock, Commander-in-Chief, and J. W. McLaughlin, Color Bearer James D. Braden, Elder Cooper, Lee L. Martz and James H. Mass, were represented the Department at the National Encampment every year except one since 1888. No work ever assigned him has been neglected. Though a modest and unassuming man, comrade has ever appealed to him in vain for assistance."

Regarding Memorial Day, Commander Charles W. Keating, of the Department of Louisiana and Mississippi, writes: "At this period when the peace of our happy land is again threatened with the calamities of war, the remembrance of the brave men whose strong and steadfast attachment to country caused them to freely give their lives for the flag they so dearly loved, will act as a holy inspiration to fire the hearts of the young men of our Nation to patriotic acts and heroic deeds in defense of our National honor. Let us remain ever faithful to the sacred trust reposed in our charge and continue true to the beautiful custom observed by us during the past few years, in having the flag of our country mark the resting place of every one of the nearly 50,000 honored heroes located within the limits of the Department of Louisiana and Mississippi."

Commander W. D. Stauffer urges upon Pennsylvania comrades proper observance of Memorial Day. He says in part: "Our Memorial Day is not a day for sackcloth and ashes; it is not a day for mourning; for fasting, nor should it be a day devoted by any patriotic American to frivolous festivities or to holiday pastimes. It is a day for the flag, for flowers, for music, for patriotism, a day for commending the brave men who died that the Nation might live, for the dead who offered all that they had that this Nation might not perish from off the earth. The success attending the visits to the public schools by comrades on the school-day preceding May 30 has been so great that a continuance of the custom is urged. Commander Stauffer

FOR NAMES OF 12 SEEDS.



\$500. FOR NAMES OF 12 SEEDS. OUR SEEDS are known to all. We want to know the names of the 12 seeds which you will select from the list below. The seeds are: 1. Corn, 2. Beans, 3. Peas, 4. Potatoes, 5. Apples, 6. Oranges, 7. Lemons, 8. Grapes, 9. Strawberries, 10. Raspberries, 11. Blackberries, 12. Currants. Write your answers to the Editor National Tribune, Washington, D. C., and we will send you a \$500. certificate for the seeds of your choice. Don't miss this offer.

Written for The National Tribune. PENSION OUR HEROES. BY T. C. HARBACH. Pension the heroes who fought for Old Glory. Pension the gallants whose deeds live in story. Pension the heroes who were with us in the world; Now they are old and the ranks, that in battle faced the grim foe, are a sad, broken line; No longer they stand 'mid the muskets' death rattle. Not with the old armies in shadow and shine.

Pension the soldiers who battled by river, Pension the heroes who marched to the sea; Some of their comrades, off duty forever, Sleep the last sleep 'neath the flag of the free; By battle's shrill bugle their dreams are unbroken Above them the rose and the lily both blow; O give each a pension, a glad Nation's O love for the heroes who conquered her foe.

Pension the heroes whose scars tell the story Of Grant's mighty battles and Sheridan's ride; Pension the blue-coats who followed Old Glory And planted it over Atlanta with pride; Back from the prisons they flitted like shadows, Back from the fields where their comrades' graves lay still; Back from the swamps and the cannon-pounded meadows, Back from the rocks of the thrice-taken hill.

Pension the heroes who rode the grim ocean, The tars of our Navy in Freedom's fair blue; Long by their cannon 'mid battle's deluge They stood with a valor unselfish and true; 'Gainst the death ramparts how often they guarded The Union by night and by day; Fighting like vikings till all the world was their prey, At Vicksburg, New Orleans and dread Mobile Bay.

Pension the veterans who guarded our honor, They gave to the Nation the years of life's prime; Look at Old Glory! they showed upon her Affection and love, made her great for all time; Their hair has grown gray and their footsteps no longer Are quick like they were when they marched to the fray; Down in the South they were agile and stronger, Now, like the moments, they're passing away.

Pension our heroes ere all have passed their clover, Pension them all ere they rest 'neath the Nation's brave, show the Nation's devotion; Let us be true to Columbia's sons; Often for light on the land and the ocean Fearless and gallant they stood by the guns!

Senator Walhall Dead. Hon. Edward C. Walhall, of Mississippi, died, April 21, at Washington, D. C., of typhoid pneumonia. He was born in Richmond, Va., in 1831. He served in the Confederate army during the civil war, rising to the rank of Major General. His professional life was in the law. He was elected to 14 months, from January, 1894, to March, 1895, Mr. Walhall sat continuously in the Senate since March 12, 1883.

MUSTERED OUT.

WALKER.—At Bridgeport, Conn., Frederick I. Walker, Co. E, 1st Mass. ROBERTS.—At Morrisville, N. Y., Thomas H. Roberts, Co. F, 17th N. Y., aged 55. He served from Nov. 3, 1862, to Nov. 15, 1863. ROSS.—At Bridgeport, Conn., John W. Ross, Corporal, Co. B, 13th Mich., aged 73. CAHD.—At Pittsburg, Pa., Andrew J. Cahd, 17th Ohio Cavalry, aged 73. He was a member of the Westinghouse Air Brake Co. HAYBURN.—At Racine, Wis., Christopher C. Hayburn, Co. F, 23d Wis., aged 62. McHALE.—At Racine, Wis., Michael McHale, Co. F, 4th Wis., aged 61. SMITH.—At Racine, Wis., George Smith, Co. E, 16th Ill., aged 57. HAMBLIN.—At Bristol, Vt., David K. Hamblin, Co. K, 1st Vt. Cav. He was a prisoner at Salisbury, Mass., and Andersonville. He was a member of W. C. Dunton Post. WRIGHT.—At Starksboro, Vt., David Wright, Co. I, 14th Vt. ROUNDS.—At New Haven, Vt., Byron C. Rounds, Co. F, 13th Vt. HARRIS.—At Housick Falls, N. Y., Capt. Henry Harrison, Comrade Harrison enlisted as Second Lieutenant, 2d N. Y., in April, 1861, and was mustered out in June, 1863, as Captain. He was a member of the Westinghouse Air Brake Co. WHEELER.—At Bethany, Ill., Henry H. Wheeler, Co. B, 41st Ill., and member of Post 126. GIBSON.—At Saybrook, Ill., Owen Gibson, Co. K, 3d Ill. Cav., aged 68. He received a pension of \$12 per month. McTheron, Co. K, 3d Ill. Cav., aged 68. He was a member of the Westinghouse Air Brake Co. McLeod.—At De Land, Ill., W. A. McLeod, Co. F, 4th Ill., aged 61. He was a member of Lemont Post, Farmer City, Ill. A widow and two children survive him.

SONS OF VETERANS.

Loyal Young Men and Their Great Order. The 14th annual Encampment of the Minnesota Division will be held at Sauk Center, June 14, 15 and 16. The local committee are preparing to entertain the visiting brethren with a picnic. \$100 has been offered for the best drilled Camp in attendance.

Col. H. Stodieck has reported to National Headquarters a net gain of six Camps and 125 members during the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1897. He says: "There has been a decided improvement in the condition of the Order during the quarter. I have six months, and correspondence from all parts of the State leads us to believe that we are now on a firmer foundation than for years. Most of our members are now at work and the prospects for a large gain this quarter are flattering."

The 11th annual Encampment of the Kentucky Division will convene at Louisville, May 10, and remain in session two days. Col. T. Z. Morrow will preside.

As to Pension-Haters. H. C. Pursell, Co. M, 1st Cal. Cav., and Co. H, 3d U. S. Cav., Casa Grande, Ariz., writes: "The loud-mouthed pension-haters are a class that sit around the bar-rooms waiting for some soldier to ask them to take a drink. They never paid a cent of taxes in their lives. Every day they have a fight with Spain and always whip, if someone sets up the drinks. I draw a pension of \$6 per month from my service in the 3d U. S. Regulars; I am also a discharged volunteer soldier. Fortunately, I did not get hit, although I was always in the front line, and I have not fought a day in my life. It would be better for these pension-haters to howl at the bond-holders than at the old soldier who enlisted when young and died in his country's service, and is now getting only \$6 per month pension. We have some good G. A. R. Posts in Arizona, and I hope the pension-haters will be made to feel that every veteran in this State. I think it is the only paper that is our friend."

George H. Butterfield, Co. E, 16th Ill., Cavalry, was born in England in August, 1861, and served three years. He then re-enlisted and was with Sherman on the march to the sea. He saw hard fighting in the battle of Atlanta, and was wounded in the hand. He has been trying to get a pension for eight years, and has been three times rejected, despite his long and faithful service. He has a wife and three children, and is a disabled veteran. He is well known, Comrade Butterfield thinks, is responsible for the last failure.

The inability of some men is always inviting the embrace of death. It is a delight of such men to boast of what 'tough fellows' they are, and tell how they overwork themselves and how one sets up the drinks. It is a fact that the average man is just that kind of a fellow. He is a fact that the average man is just that kind of a fellow. He is a fact that the average man is just that kind of a fellow.

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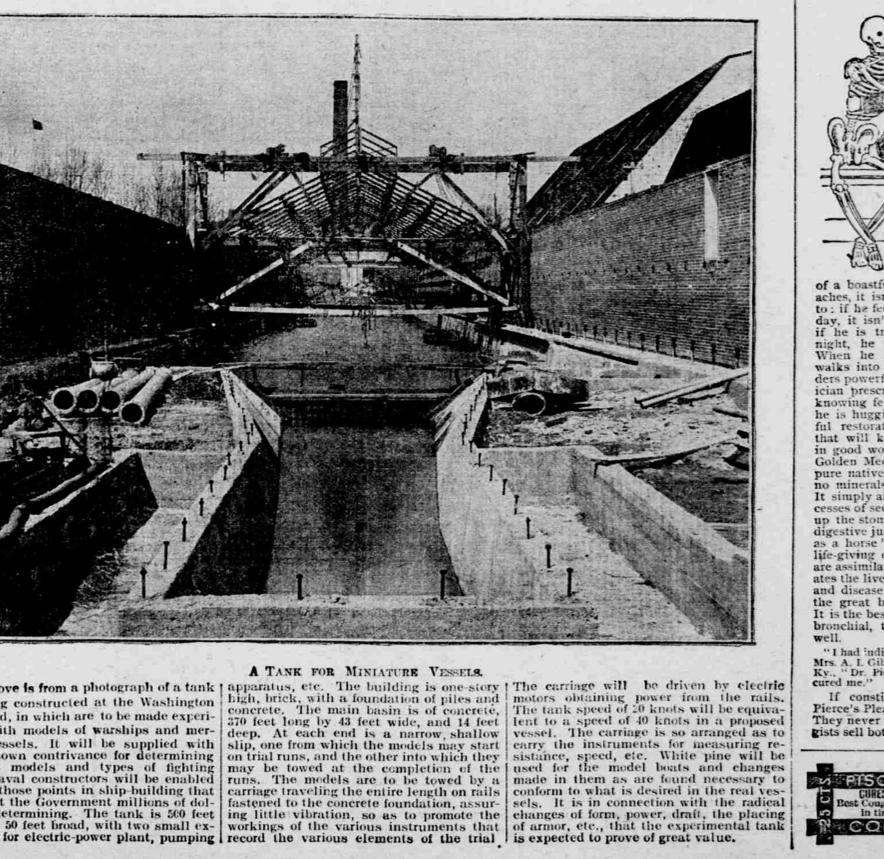
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A TANK FOR MINIATURE VESSELS. The above is from a photograph of a tank now being constructed at the Washington Navy-yard, in which are to be made experiments with models of warships and merchant vessels. It will be supplied with every known contrivance for determining the best method of a ship's fighting craft. Naval constructor will be enabled to solve those points in ship-building that have cost the Government millions of dollars in determining. The tank is 500 feet long and 50 feet broad, with two small extensions for electric-power plant, pumping apparatus, etc. The building is one-story high, brick, with a foundation of piles and concrete. The main basin is of concrete, 270 feet long by 43 feet wide, and 14 feet deep. At each end is a narrow show-way to slip, one from which the models may start on trial runs, and the other into which they may be towed at the completion of the runs. The models are to be powered by a carriage traveling the entire length on rails fastened to the concrete foundation, assuring little vibration, so as to promote the workings of the various instruments that record the various elements of the trial.

Advertisement for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. The advertisement describes the medicine as a powerful restorative tonic and health-builder, suitable for various ailments including nervousness, indigestion, and general weakness. It claims to be a 'miraculous' discovery and is highly recommended by medical professionals. The text is dense and includes several paragraphs of descriptive text and testimonials.