

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

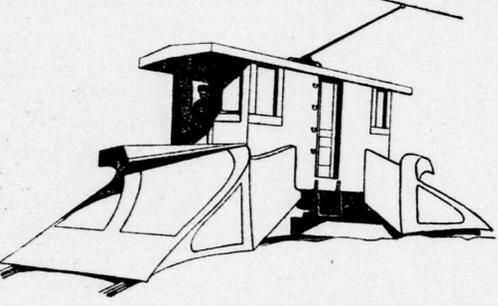
Work of the World's Busy Brains in Discovering, Inventing and Creating.

THE WILDER SNOWPLOW.

Snows and their removal have cost the railroads of this country millions of dollars and very many lives. Mr. W. E. Wilder has obtained a patent for a snowplow which engineers think will exhibit at least 25 per cent better results than any snowplow hitherto devised, and will be particularly effective on hard-packed and frozen snow, diagonal drifts, drifts on curves, and side-hill drifts across the track.

A novel military device is a traveling searchlight which has been built in England for the army's use in Egypt. It is run by a 20-horsepower gasoline motor, has especially wide wheels with metal sides to prevent the sand from getting in between the spokes, and draws with it a trailer carrying a dynamo and a searchlight which are driven by the motive power of the car.

The production of borax in this country continues to thrive. All of it comes from California, and the larger part from San Bernardino County. The total production last year was 45,647 tons, valued at \$698,810.



THE WILDER RADIAL SNOW PLOW.

on curves of so small diameter as 25 feet radius. The plow is 37 feet nine inches long; 11 feet eight inches high; eight feet wide, and with the wings extended 12 feet wide, and weighs 36,000 pounds. The wings, scrapers, sanders, brakes, etc., are operated by air. The body is sheathed inside and out and the windows have double lights, thereby preventing the frost from forming on them and obscuring view of the work. Two men are all that are needed to operate the plow, and it has maintained a speed of over eight miles an hour through snow from one to three feet in depth and drifts sometimes five or six feet deep. It has worked continuously for 24 hours without being derailed or stalled, which is something that cannot be said for any other plow in use.

The surgeons pronounce the new anesthetic, scopolamine, a success. Last week an operation was performed at a hospital in Chicago on John Nester, a wealthy Michigan lumber man, to remove two tubercles. It worked so well that the physicians think that it will supersede all other anesthetics.

The use of electricity for removing superfluous hair, small moles, etc., is the greatest gift of science to what may be termed, cosmetic surgery. Electricity is not only more effective, but it is less painful and annoying in its application.

TRADE-MARK RULES.

The following amendment to Rule No. 17 is published:

"17. No trade-mark will be registered to an applicant residing or located in a foreign country unless such country by treaty, convention or law, affords similar privileges to the citizens of the United States, nor unless the trade-mark has been registered by the applicant in the foreign country in which he resides or is located. In such cases it is not necessary to state in the application that the trade-mark has been used in commerce with the United States or among the States thereof. (See Rule 31.)"

WORK OF THE PATENT OFFICE.

The work of the Patent Office for the week ended Nov. 28, 1906, was: Patents issued, 656; designs, eight; trade-marks, 129; labels, 24; prints, nine; reissues, one; total, 827. Of these 695 patents and 157 trade-marks were to citizens of the United States and 69 patents and five trade-marks to citizens of foreign countries.

DISBARRED.

The Secretary of the Interior has disbarred from practice before any Bureau of the Department Robert C. Taylor, Stonycreek, Tenn., and Orestes B. Wright, of Scanton, Pa.

The Geological Survey has been making an examination of the famous Jornada del Muerto—"Journey of Death." The great, shadeless, waterless plain of New Mexico stretches for a distance of 100 miles, with a width of from five to 20 miles. The soil along the stretch is loose and porous, so that the rainfall is quickly absorbed, and also the water brought down from the highlands. It is believed that this can be retained by digging wells. In 1871 John Martin, a rancher, dug a well 150 feet deep, and found an abundance of cool, soft water, which made his place an oasis in the desert. Since then many wells have been sunk from 50 to 75 feet and equipped with windmills. It is believed that there is an abundance of water, probably a vast underflow, at a short distance below the surface, and which can be brought up with comparative ease.

The ordinary kerosene lamp is the best illustration of the highest type of a combustion furnace. The hot gases passing up through the narrow throat of the chimney draw the colder air through the hot wire gauze at the bottom and bring it near to a temperature which will feed combustion and prevent smoke by chilling the vapors. The limits in the construction of such a furnace are easily seen. When the wick is raised a little the combustion is greater than the capacity of the furnace and smoke results. When the chimney is raised from the bottom too much cold air enters, the fire is chilled, and we have smoke.

The London authorities have found in spite of the bad name the motor car gets, they are really less productive of injuries than other vehicles. The motor car has really less possibilities of danger to other vehicles and passengers than the carriage with horses. That is, the motor car can only hurt by running over or against, while the ordinary carriage not only has all of this possibility, but it has the eccentricities of two or more horses to complicate the situation.

Motor omnibuses are having fair success in Berlin. They are driven by a 24-horsepower gasoline motor, and carry 16 passengers inside and 14 on the outside.

Leaf-Turning Finger Ring.

A. L. Ramage, Kansas City, Mo., has received a patent for a leaf-turning device, which is a ring-like affair to be worn upon the forefinger, and has one or more pins extending a slight distance above the surface in order to catch the leaf and assist in turning it.

Adjustable Support for Chairs.

John Flindall, Chicago, Ill., has patented a rocking chair which has an adjustable support for the feet.

Lawn Mower.

James N. Bryant, Sparta, Tenn., has received a patent for a lawn mower of justable support connecting the seat and the rockers so as to vary the angle of the former at pleasure.

Rotary Cultivating Implement.

Floyd A. Price, Benndi, Minn., has received a patent for a rotary cultivating implement, the essential features of which are two circular cultivators which are rotated by the motion of the wheel or of six rollers.

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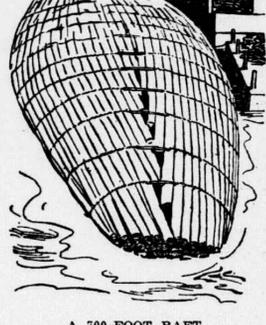
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RAFTING ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

Ten Million Feet of Lumber—Largest Ever Attempted—600 Feet in Length.

The largest raft ever built will attempt the longest voyage ever made by a raft. Ten million feet of the finest Oregon timber, valued at \$78,000, will leave the Columbia river, and will be carried to San Francisco in a raft 600 feet long and 75 feet wide. The raft is being assembled in an exaggerated cigar shape, by means of a "cradle" like a Canadian idea. The cradle looks like the skeleton framework of a great ship.



A 700-FOOT RAFT.

When the raft is finished the cradle separates into two parts by the removal of key pins and the parts are hauled out of the way. An immense manila bawser as large around as a man's body will serve as the tow rope. Two sea-going tugs will tow the raft, burning fuel which will be supplied by an oil ship which will accompany the "fleet."

Such a raft could be constructed nowhere else in the world, for in no other country can be found the giant trees and the necessary facilities for forming them into a raft. The illustration shows a 700-foot raft which successfully made a trip from the Columbia river to San Francisco in 1845. Several previous attempts at ocean rafting have met with failure, the rafts going to pieces during a storm. The floating logs constitute a great danger to navigation, and float to great distances. Pieces of one Oregon raft were found months later thousands of miles away on the coasts of Hawaii and Mexico.

Improvements and additional safeguards have since been made. The big raft is being constructed under the superintendence of Hugh R. Robertson, who has had considerable experience in the use of the raft. It is expected to net a profit of \$50,000 or more.

The logs composing the raft will be used for snags and pilings. In hoisting them into the cradle, they are lifted one by one by a derrick operated by a hoisting engine, each log being left in place until the next one is hoisted.

A derrick on the raft will hoist every log on its seaway course through the air, guiding its descent. The entire raft is long as a venturesome in the extreme, though the builders are sanguine of success. The cost of building the raft is enormous, the cradle alone costing thousands of dollars.

INFORMATION BUREAU.

Ivy Poisoning. What is the best cure for ivy poisoning?—Emily G. Betts, Laramie, Wyo. A decoction of the root of Solomon's Seal has been recommended, but it cannot be bought from a druggist if it cannot be found in the woods. This is used as a wash and a drink. A mouthful is taken every two hours, and the affected parts are washed with it when the pain is intense.

Cleaning Paint. Editor National Tribune: How is the best way to clean varnished paint?—Maria V. Grant, Vandalla, Ill. Varnished paint may be cleaned by washing with a mixture of a pound of wheat bran rolled in a gallon of water.

Getting Rid of Old Whitewash. Editor National Tribune: How can I get rid of old whitewash on walls?—T. T. Aldridge, Chicago, Ill. Wet the whitewash thoroughly with a wash made of one pound of potash, dissolved in 10 quarts of water. It will be ready to rub off when wet or brush off when dry.

Grafting-Wax. Editor National Tribune: Please direct me to the best grafting wax that will stick firmly and last long?—Ebenezer Adams, Vernon, Wis. The ordinary formula used in making a grafting wax is composed of equal parts of four parts rosin, two parts beeswax and one part of beef tallow. These substances should be melted and thoroughly mixed, the resulting liquid is poured into a pail of cold water; then the operator should grease his hands and work the mass thoroughly as in candle-making or tallow putting. Wax made in this way and thoroughly worked should not peel off when properly applied to the stubs. There is another way made by using rosin and a very small proportion of tallow mixed together, to which is added alcohol. This liquefies the rosin and holds it in a plastic condition, so that the wax may be applied with a brush; but it is much more expensive than the former, and has no special advantages.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

"Zupupe," a fiber used by Mexican Indians for ropes, is claimed by experts to be better than hemp or any other known textile. The material is abundant, a large supply being produced by plantations in the Province of Tuxtepec. In the heating system of the Egling Sanatorium, in Upper Bavaria, steam sent through pipes more than a mile and a half to the colliery heating water boilers that supply heat to 20 pavilions and six administrative buildings. Steam entering the conduits at 159 degrees C. was found to have a temperature of 152 degrees on reaching the coils. The conduits have a novel insulating covering of charred silk threads, and they are arranged in a tunnel having walls lined with asphalt. Electric signals give communication with the boiler house.

Man has proven to be curiously unfitted for living on rocks. At the Minot Ledge lighthouse beds, tables, benches, etc., are fitted to the circular shape of the tower in order to economize space, and it is reported that five cases of well-developed insanity were a number of cases of lesser mental trouble have developed among men employed there. The specialists assert that with an angle on which the rest, the eye roves round until the effect is maddening.

In spectacular geology the Vavoua volcano in Samoa seems to have a place by itself. The crater is barren of island, and it forms lava mountains that are slowly carried great distances by the molten sea beneath, as many as five or six miles. The lava flows are chains seeming to be now in existence. The mountains may have a length of four or five miles, with a width of 100 to 150 feet in places, and a height of 200 feet.

WAR OF THE REBELLION.

(Continued from page 1.)

broke our line and threw the men into groups, this giving the enemy's artillery an opportunity to work with the most deadly effects. Our line rapidly melted away under the terrible fire, and we were getting up to within 75 yards of the works we found ourselves too weak to carry them by assault, and after remaining under this severe fire for 20 minutes we were compelled to fall back. We brought off our colors safely, and reformed at the point where we had last halted previous to advancing for the assault. We were then ordered back to the point where we first crossed the railroad.

The regiment went into action with 225 men, and three companies and staff officers, making an aggregate of 241 rank and file engaged. Out of this number we lost 114 killed, wounded and captured. Part of our wounded and our dead were buried in the trenches. An attempt was made to bring off our killed and wounded under a flag of truce, but it was unsuccessful. After the battle we were ordered to march back to the point where we first crossed the railroad.

Gen. Sherman's Future Plans. Gen. Grant's active, intense mind contemplated embarking immediately upon other schemes, and he urged the Government to allow him to move at once.

Gen. Johnston Escapes With His Army. Gen. Sherman frankly admits in his Memoirs that he always felt cautious in his policy in front of Johnston, and certainly his own defeat at the Battle of Bentonville was a result of his hesitations.

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oners had to be paroled within 10 days, and delivered to the opposing sides at Vicksburg or City Point. The Confederates claimed that having taken Vicksburg, Grant was compelled to release the prisoners at some other selected point.

The parole was finished by July 1, and then all the able-bodied Confederates who could be gotten together were formed again into companies, regiments, brigades and divisions, and took up their line of march from the place which had been their refuge, their stronghold, their prison, and the scene of their humiliation. As they passed the line of works which had been so bloodily contested the roll was called again, and they filed out over the Baldwin's Ferry road amid throngs of Union soldiers standing on either side, and pleasantly bidding them good-bye. Before nightfall they had all disappeared, and were traversing the battlefields of Black River Bridge and Champion Hills, as full of memories of bitter fighting and unavailing bloodshed. They directed their march upon Raymond, passing through a country which was full of memories of the hand of war and sweep of everything which would feed man or beast. Hungry, footsore, thirsty, stifled with dust, embittered by defeat and the mismanagement of their army, they reached Brandon in a condition of desperate insubordination. Many had deserted on the way, and many more did so when they learned that they were not to be allowed to go home, but were destined for a camp at Demopolis, where they would be kept under close guard until they could be exchanged and returned to the field. The Confederate Government had been at too much trouble in conscripting them to let them go again. It needed them immediately, as soon as it could rearm them to use against Rosecrans, who was waking up from his long inaction in his lines around Murfreesboro and pushing forward through the heart of Tennessee toward Chattanooga.

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once upon Mobile. In this he was actively seconded by Sherman and McPherson, and had it been followed it would have brought the way very much nearer a conclusion and had a most decided effect upon the campaigns of the following year. In some inscrutable manner it did not meet with the approval of Gen. Halleck, and there was nothing left to do but to put the army into pleasant camps and await future orders. (To be continued.)

LABRADOR PEARLS.

A Little Known Source of Wealth in the Streams of a Desolate Land. The deep-sea fishermen and whale or seal hunters are about the only people who know much of the northern Labrador coast, where it runs up into Hudson Bay territory. Barrenness and desolation, rocky shores beaten by the icy Atlantic, long Winters and short, inclement Summers are its chief characteristics.

There are but few signs of human life; merely ancient rockbuilt shelters set up by whalers from Nantucket or Gloucester, when Greenland whales were hunted among the icebergs, or rude seal hunters' shanties, where observation parties land for a day or two at a time. But, curious as it appears, there is a little-known source of wealth in that lone land.

It is found in the rushing rivers, which generally make their last leap into the ocean over a steep and high waterfall. The immense masses of fresh water mussels, which in many places actually choke the streams, first directed attention to it in later years.

Men wondered why the old-time whaler or seal hunters and other early navigators had collected such quantities of the shells as were to be seen piled about the camping places. Then a short search by a well-read ne'er-do-well a few years ago revealed a large, irregularly-shaped pearl, under a pile of old shells, and immediately a valuable secret was revealed to a few persons.

Since that time a certain number of men have become expert pearl fishers, and now shipments are periodically, and in Summer regularly, made of pearls. These men make fair wages by their labors, though, of course, the individual varies according to his luck, good or bad, which attends the individual.

Some of the pearls are large and of great value. Last year about the time one was sold to a New Yorker of rare discrimination in the purchase of curios for upward of \$1,000. In appearance these pearls are like pearls, but are distinguished from those obtained in Southern seas, though unfortunately a certain percentage of them are irregular in shape.

Usually they are silver white in color, though a young man who has just returned from Labrador has a pair of rose-pink pearls, perfectly matched, which weigh about 12 grains each and are worth probably \$50 to \$70 apiece.

Strangely enough, this lucky one was not a pearl hunter, but took a clump of shells in his hand, and sat down to open them with his pocket-knife. He found the two pearls in one large shell. After that find he spent a fortnight in searching for more, but only secured about half a dozen small ones, worth perhaps \$3 the lot.

As a rule, the pearl hunting is gone about in a more scientific manner than that of the Indians, who have been regularly fished for them for many generations. Most of the pearls collected by these people in older times were ruined by being run through the shell to flat rocks or sandbars, and are allowed to decompose, when the shells open naturally and are easily examined for the pearls, which are loosely embedded in the flesh of the fish.

It appears that the Indians of that district have always known of these fresh-water pearls, and that several of the tribes are regularly stocked with pearls regularly fished for them for many generations. Most of the pearls collected by these people in older times were ruined by being run through the shell to flat rocks or sandbars, and are allowed to decompose, when the shells open naturally and are easily examined for the pearls, which are loosely embedded in the flesh of the fish.

Nowadays, the wide-awake Hudson Bay Company traders pay a fair price for all the Indians can collect. Some of the Montreal houses have regular dealings with the pearl hunters of the coast, and have agents on the spot who secure shipments for them.

It does not follow as a matter of course, if a man was a soldier, even if he is a pensioner, that it will be an easy matter for his widow to get a pension. As a matter of fact, widows' claims are usually delayed and in some cases never allowed for lack of evidence, which the husband, usually, could have supplied during his lifetime.

This important matter has been discussed, from time to time, in the columns of The National Tribune, and has been made the subject of orders by Commanders-in-Chief of the Grand Army, but every appeal heretofore was deficient in one essential particular: no safe and permanent plan was suggested for the custody of the information.

The National Tribune Co., in a practical way, proposes to supply this deficiency. In a fire-proof room, in its own building and under lock and key to insure privacy, it will care for such papers and information until such time as they may be needed, even if such time is many years distant. The National Tribune Co. is incorporated. Having a perpetual existence, the death of the present managers of the Company will not disturb the business or change the custody of the papers. No safer place in the world can be found for the purpose.

But The National Tribune will go further in this commendable work. It will assist in getting in shape the proofs and information required. The first step for every comrade is to answer the few simple questions that are asked in the "Preliminary Report." This report will disclose the case and enable The National Tribune to complete all the proof required.

There will be no charge whatever for this service, but it will be expected of every comrade that he will call the attention of other married comrades to this matter and influence them to do likewise. No other missionary work can be productive of more good. Many comrades who are not subscribers to The National Tribune will at least of this important service if subscribers do call their attention to it. Extra blanks will be sent for distribution upon request.

All comrades are requested to make the Preliminary Report, including those who have married since June 27, 1890.

Comrades who attend to this matter promptly will be taking the best possible step toward securing for their widows the higher rate of pension.

Preliminary Report

To aid my widow, if I leave one, in getting her pension.

Note.—This report is short, and can be easily written out on letter or legal cap paper. This course avoids cutting the paper. Be sure to write the names and dates clearly and distinctly. When report is ready mail it to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

Date..... 1905..... (Write above number and street, or R. F. D. No., if any.)

Soldier's Name..... Present P. O.....

State..... I was in the service from..... day of..... 186..... to..... day of..... 186..... as a..... (Give rank, also company and regiment.)

and was honorably discharged at..... on the..... day of..... 186..... Are you a pensioner?..... (Yes or no.) At what rate? \$..... per month

Were you pensioned under the old law or the new?..... (The new law is the act of June 27, 1890.)

What wounds, diseases or disabilities, if any, are written on your pension certificate?.....

I was married to..... on the..... day of..... 18..... (Give wife's name before marriage.)

by..... at..... (Give name of clergyman or person officiating.)

I was born..... day of..... 18..... She was born..... day of..... 18.....

Is there a court or church record of this marriage?.....

Were either of you previously married?.....

If a prisoner of war, state for how long.....

Remarks.....

Coke Oven Gas Is Light