

VOL. I.

Professional Cards.

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Jonesville, Virginia.

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Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

H. A. W. SKEEN,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Office in Bank of Big Stone Gap,
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R. T. IRVINE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
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AND
COUNSELOR-AT-LAW,
Office in Nickels Building,
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Courts—Russell, Wise and Dickenson Counties, and
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PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
Big Stone Gap, Virginia,
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PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES
FREELY PREPARED IN A THOROUGH AND
ARTISTIC MANNER.

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THE CONDITION

Of Affairs at Big Stone Gap.

Everything Encouraging.

After two years or more of great financial depression the country over, and in this new community particularly, the down grade has finally been reached, and the ascent up the hill of prosperity begun. In no other place of its size perhaps has there been such a splendid set of young men, vigorous, brainy, industrious—as in Big Stone Gap, and nowhere else have they stuck so together as a band of brothers as here. To their intelligence, untiring zeal and unwavering confidence in this place and its destinies, has been due so much of the credit of preventing wreck and disaster, and establishing instead confidence and victory.

It is a matter of congratulation that every enterprise of any magnitude started here is still growing stronger. It is a matter of congratulation that, though the hands of our best friends and those most able to make large developments and do great benefits to this section, especially the Virginia Coal & Iron Company and the Virginia, Tennessee & Carolina Steel & Iron Company, have been tried, and they, by perhaps no fault of their own, have had to remain quiet, yet one coal and coke plant, with a guaranteed output of 500 tons daily has been started—by a man who has built 500 ovens elsewhere—work on which is going on actively, and two other large leases have been made with work to be begun in the early future. It is a matter of congratulation that the Appalachian Steel & Iron Company has made such a success of its Furnace here, and turned out such an excellent quality of iron as A 1 or "American Scotch", that it will, with the manufacturing of coke at this point, complete its other furnace which is now nine-tenths done, and in addition to its lease on 1700 acres of land, which it is now working, is securing additional lands of the same kind, so as to insure the continued production of the coke approximately to the amount of 1,000,000 tons in the South. It is a matter of congratulation that the large shipments of poplar, walnut and other timbers to Hamburg, Bremer, Glasgow and Liverpool and an application of a lumber king to put in twenty-four saw-mills on one large tract of land here shows the estimation in which practical people hold our unrivalled forests. It is a matter of congratulation that the working man here is busy as is evidenced by the posting of notices calling for more laborers; that every dwelling house in the place is occupied with a crying demand for more; that travel and the patronage of the hotels have doubled or tripled the last few weeks, and that almost every citizen finds his circumstances getting easier and easier, and that the whole community should be in a hopeful, almost buoyant frame of mind. The coming of railway magnates and the building of additional railroads here are promised as developments of the future, and one gentleman, who has recently raised \$5,000,000 in Europe for an industrial enterprise, stands ready to build 160 miles of railroad here from the North upon a reasonable guarantee of freight traffic assured.

The past, then, is behind us with its memories and bitter experiences; the present is satisfactory; and the future is brimful of reasonable promise of material development and prosperity. Patience and press onward!

THE ENGLISH COAL SUPPLY.
The Mines Giving Out and the Price Going Up Steadily.

A somewhat startling statement of the condition of the English coal mines and supply is made by Mr. Edward Atkinson, who has recently visited Great Britain and made observations of the industrial condition. By reason of the growing scarcity of coal, Mr. Atkinson says, and the increased cost of mining, owing to the greater depth reached and the smaller seams worked, the increase in the cost of coal has amounted to \$6,000,000 that has been added to the cost of coal in a single year. In many mines, Mr. Atkinson goes on to say, the larger veins have been driven so deep that they can be worked no longer, and the companies are compelled to fall back on poorer veins previously passed. The price of coal in London and to all the factories has greatly increased. In the matter of coaling coals, used for the production of steel, the situation is described as serious, as the supply is approaching exhaustion.

The Durham mines, where the coals produced are of the best quality, and the temperature at that depth is only 70 degrees. Even there the veins are only 70 feet thick, and the price of coke for steel-making is, in consequence, \$3 a ton, against \$1.40 in the Pocahontas region of Virginia and \$1.25 at Conestoga, Pa. All these things have driven British manufacturers to looking into appliances for economizing fuel by non-conducting furnace setting and complete combustion of fuel which are not even considered in this country. It is a true picture of the condition of affairs in Great Britain, it may well cause alarm and even consternation among the people. For it is known that the island can produce only a small portion of the necessary fuel supply for the people, and the only way the people can be fed is by exchanging the products of the factories for the bread and meat of other countries.

Superstition About Friday.
(Historic going people.)

Many years ago, when sailing ships were the only means of communication between the different countries, superstition was more rife among soldiers than at the present time. Those absurd fancies were not confined to Jack alone, but they were shared in to a greater or less extent by ship-masters and owners. Friday was considered a day of evil, and the most malignant results were supposed to attend a voyage commenced on this day of the week. In those times he would indeed

have been a reckless skipper who would have attempted to start on this ill-omened day, for the crew would have broken out in an open rebellion rather than lift the anchor from the bottom or cast off shore moorings.

Since the advent of steam many of these prejudices have become delirious as the ships on which they were once entertained.

A true story told of a skeptical Massachusetts captain who was back in the early years of the republic, determined to exhibit the fallacy of this particular superstition. He contracted on a certain Friday for the building of a ship, and the vessel was laid on Friday, that she was launched on a Friday, named Friday, commenced loading on a Friday, and hauled into the stream on the same day of the week. To avoid the possibility of disaster, a negro cook named Friday was engaged, and was fully freighted with the sinister name, the Friday sailed on a Friday, bound to a port in the West Indies. From that day to this no tidings of the ill-conditioned craft have been received. But those of us who like Friday for various reasons, but chiefly because it leads up to the Saturday, upon which day schools are closed, will be pleased to hear that it is not half so unlucky a day as Monday, the day the school opens again. A German statistician, feeling that Friday had been a much-maligned day, determined to make a scientific investigation of the matter and has found that it is not Friday, but Monday, that is the most unfortunate of the week-days. According to his investigation, 16.74 per cent. of all accidents occur on Monday, 15.51 per cent. on Tuesday, 16.31 per cent. on Wednesday, 15.47 per cent. on Thursday, 16.38 per cent. on Friday, 16.38 per cent. on Saturday, and only 2.69 per cent. on Sunday.

So, you see, Friday isn't so bad a day after all.

A SUMMONS FOR MR. CLEVELAND.
The Sheriff Serves the Document in a Young Lawyer's Suit for Services.

EXAMON, Va., Nov. 30.—The chief incident of the day on Broadwater Island was the arrival of the Sheriff, Samuel Jarvis, of Northampton county with a summons which he sought to serve upon Mr. Cleveland. He came over from the mainland at 2 o'clock this afternoon, but was forced to wait until the guiding party returned from their day's sport before presenting the document.

The Sheriff was unable to furnish any information about the summons, except that it was to appear before the Chancery Court at Richmond. He said that when the summons reached him for service at Cape Charles City, he regarded it as a practical joke. Upon telegraphing the Clerk of the Court at Richmond, he received an assurance that the document was genuine and came to Exmore at noon to carry out his instruction. He had done so.

The summons was for next Monday on a bill of complaint filed by Willis R. Smith, a young lawyer of Richmond. Smith claims \$5,000 damages for alleged breach of contract for his professional services in the matter of the settlement of the public debt of Virginia. Mr. Cleveland was Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and among his associates were ex-Secretary Bayard, ex-Minister E. J. Phelps, and others. All of these are made defendants in the suit, as are also all the members of the Olcott committee. The suit had almost been lost sight of by the public, but Mr. Smith had not forgotten it. He had been watching for some of the defendants to come into the state so as to serve them with summonses. What the President-elect will do about the matter is not known.

The ducking party returned soon after 4 o'clock and reported excellent sport. Mr. Cleveland occupied the floating blind with five ducks, Mr. Davis occupied a stationary blind and killed fourteen birds. Hargis picked up the game for both.

The programme for to-morrow will be the same as to-day. It is understood that Mr. Cleveland has declined the invitation received from the Old Dominion and Accoquias Clubs to shoot upon their preserve. So far as can be learned no time has been fixed for Mr. Cleveland's return. It is probable that he may spend another Sunday upon Broadwater Island.

The Exportation of Gold.
We do not know to what extent the apprehension with which gold shipments are regarded is artificial. Sufficient of it is real, however, to make the loss of gold at this season of the year a factor in the general market. As we near the end of a year which without any unnatural business excitement, may be fairly regarded as the most prosperous in the history of our country, there are people who feel that the loss of a few millions of gold threatens the financial stability of the nation.

It is worth while to consider for a moment the true relation which our gold shipments up to date and any probable future shipments have or may have to the gold resources of the United States. When we started specie payments in 1879 the entire stock of gold in the country was \$245,000,000. In the past month of November the stock of gold is officially set at \$252,000,000. Here is a gain in thirteen years in our holding this metal of some \$7,000,000, or considerably more than the aggregate gold product of the whole United States for some period.

With all our extravagance and our expenditure of millions of gold abroad annually by our absent and traveling citizens, we have managed to save the space of thirteen years to add \$7,000,000,000 to our stock. It would seem as if a few millions more or less, should not be a matter of great concern, should not long prove potent in determining values.—New York Sun.

THE STATE DEBT.
Report of the Second Auditor of Virginia.

The report of the Second Auditor on the condition of the public debt of Virginia presents the following interesting facts: Up to October 15, 1892, the bondholders' committee had presented for verification \$54,659,035.55 of the outstanding obligations, of which a small portion (\$551,242) will be issued in West Virginia certificates. The classes and amount of securities presented for verification were as follows: Under act of March 30, 1871, 16,488,085; under act of March 30, 1871, as amended by act of March 28, 1879, \$8,220,134; under act of March 28, 1879, \$19,150,816; and under act of March 2, 1892, \$1,000,000. Total \$35,869,035.55. Deducting West Virginia's portion of the debt leaves to be redeemed by Virginia in the proportion of 19 to 28, \$24,106,192; amount of new bonds to be issued, therefore, \$16,357,774. Of the outstanding obligations presented \$18,163,733 was principal and \$6,494,303 was interest.

GEN'L R. A. AYERS.

His Friends Warm in His Support for Governor.

Enthusiastic Meeting.

On the night of November the nineteenth, in Big Stone Gap, was inaugurated a movement the result of which will more than likely place Hon. R. A. Ayers in the gubernatorial chair of Virginia.

For more than a year past this distinguished citizen of Big Stone Gap has been prominently mentioned throughout the State of Virginia as an available candidate for the Governorship, but nothing definite from himself or any one close to him had ever been published signifying that Gen. Ayers would become a candidate.

So great, however, is his popularity at home and so high does he stand in esteem of his fellow citizens in his own town and county, that a large popular meeting was held in the city hall, on the night of the nineteenth of November last, for the purpose of pressing his name before the people of Virginia as the proper man to receive the Democratic nomination for Governor at the convention to be held in 1893. This meeting was called without consulting Gen. Ayers, and was held while he was absent from the county and state. It was the result of a spontaneous impulse on the part of his neighbors and friends who felt that their fellow citizen was worthy of the highest office within the gift of the people of the Old Dominion, and that his services to his state, at a critical period in her history, were worthy of that recognition and the grateful reward that could be rendered by bestowing upon him the Chief Magistracy of the State.

The meeting had been called by the Ayers Democratic Club—an organization that done most effective work in the Presidential campaign—and was called to order by A. W. Irvine, President of the club. After calling the meeting to order Mr. Irvine asked Dr. C. D. Kunkel to take the chair, and in a few well chosen remarks, resigned his position, stating that the purpose for which the club had been organized, in the beginning having been accomplished he wished to retire from the active duties that would now devolve upon the President. A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Irvine for the able and efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties of President and the resignation was accepted.

A motion was made, and carried with a rush, that the Club be reorganized with the avowed purpose of promoting the nomination and election of ex-Attorney General Rufus A. Ayers as Governor of Virginia. R. T. Irvine was elected President of the reorganized club and W. T. Kennedy Secretary.

A committee on resolutions was appointed which committee reported a series of resolutions endorsing the candidacy of Gen. Ayers and recommending him to the people of Virginia.

An executive committee, consisting of R. T. Irvine, J. F. Bullitt, Jr., J. L. Kelly, E. M. Fulton and L. O. Pettit, was appointed for the purpose of pressing the claims of Gen. Ayers before the people and were given charge of the active campaign to be made on behalf of Gen. Ayers by the Ayers Democratic Club.

An advisory committee, composed principally of leading Democrats from other counties, was appointed for the purpose of counseling with and advising the executive as to the campaign. The gentlemen composing this committee were Edwin Barbour, Walter E. Addison, W. T. Miller and T. G. Wells, of Wise county; J. B. Richmond and H. S. Kane of Scott county; C. T. Duncan of Lee county; Wm. R. Burns and Y. B. Gilmer of Russell county. This committee to be increased by adding the names of a prominent Democrat from every county and city in Virginia.

The meeting was enthusiastic from beginning to end. After the routine business was over the crowd called on several gentlemen present and fine speeches were made by J. F. Bullitt, Jr., Walter E. Addison and R. T. Irvine.

Killed a Fine Deer.
On Friday last a hunting party made up of Messrs. Jeff Dillon, Charles Richman, Sam W. Wax, Hiram Horton, Iko Wolfe and several others, went to High Knob, in high spirits and had a high time in the way of a successful deer chase. Mr. Charles Richmond was the Daniel Boone of the hunting party, and made himself famous by bringing down a fine deer. He made some of his Big Stone Gap friends happy by sending them some nice venison.

W. D. KENNER, mayor of Rorersville, Tennessee, has been here for several days, looking after his business in this county, and left for home to-day.

The Furnace and Its Progress.
The furnace of the South Appalachian Steel and Iron Company at this place made its first iron at nine o'clock on the night of May 6th, of this year. By the courtesy of Gen. Ayers, Pres't of the Big Stone Gap and Powell's Valley Railway, a special train was tendered to the citizens of Big Stone Gap, that they might go up and witness the inaugural run, which was successfully made, the product being known commercially as No. 3 iron. Three cheers were proposed and heartily given by the crowd in honor of Mr. E. J. Bird, Sr., Vice President and General Manager, upon the favorable outcome of so many months of work on his part. This iron was shipped to Bacon & Floto, of Cincinnati, who then began to introduce it to the trade. The second casting, as things

began to work better and the furnace became hotter was No. 2, and the third casting, No. 1, which has been turned out to the extent of perhaps 90 per cent ever since.

Mr. Davis of Middleshorough, Ky., who was for a long time a manufacturer of charcoal pig in Maine, says this product is the nearest approximation to be made by coke to that kind of iron that he has ever seen. This iron has been shipped to a number of states, and one order almost invariably results in a repetition of a number of others.

This pig is used for making mowing machines, locomotives, cars, boilers, engines, car wheels, saddlery hardware, pulley castings, stores, machinery castings, muck bar iron, steam forges, scales, sewing machines, railroad supplies, iron pipe, steam forges, foundry and all kinds of machinery besides being put to other uses.

The pig-iron made is sent to a large number of places, including the following: Maine.—Portland. Vermont.—Rutland, Burlington. New Hampshire.—South Newmarket, Nashua. Massachusetts.—Worcester, Orange, Pittsfield, Lowell. New York.—Utica, Buffalo. Illinois.—Danville. Indiana.—Elwood, Richmond, Fort Wayne, Muncie, Indianapolis, Aurora, Terre Haute. Ohio.—Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Gallion, Hamilton, Lima, Mount Vernon, Mansfield, Marion, Mansfield, Piqua, Toledo, Tiffin, Sandusky, Springfield, Portsmouth, Ironton, Van Wert, Bridgeport, Wellington. Michigan.—Adrian, Ann Harbor, Bay City, Dowagiac, Battle Creek, Cadillac, Benton Harbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Kalamazoo, Ludington, Lansing, Manistee, Muskegon, Marshall, Montague, Jackson, Port Huron, Saginaw, South Haven, Three Rivers, Ypsilanti.

The ore-beds of the Preston tract are being largely developed both by stripping and by tunneling. Several hundred men are at work; new tramways have been built, and new inclines and drums put in, so as to insure a full supply to the furnace even in the worst of weather. The company has discontinued the shipment of ore to other points, finding it better to use it here. Mr. E. J. Bird, Jr., President, has recently added very largely to his holdings of ore lands near here.

The limestone for fluxing is taken from a large ledge in Stone Mountain, on the S. A. & O. R. R., about a mile from the furnace, and is found well suited to the purpose.

The coke at present comes from Pocahontas and Middleshorough, at a cost largely in excess of what it should be delivered here for, but arrangements are in progress to obtain a supply from the coal fields just north of Big Stone Gap, at an early date. The furnace has just been painted, and, covering as much ground as it does, presents a very imposing appearance to all visitors.

Mr. M. T. Ridenour fills the responsible place of Secretary and Treasurer of the Furnace Company, and is constantly on the ground to look after its interests, while General Manager Bird is ably seconded by his brothers in attending to the details of the work.

BIG STONE GAP'S ATTORNEYS.
Brilliant Young Men, Possessed of Talent and Ability.

In this issue of the Post will be found the law cards of the following gentlemen: Bullitt & McDowell, William K. Shelby, H. A. W. Skeen, R. T. Irvine, L. Turner Maury, Duncan, Mathews & Maynor, W. E. Addison, and W. J. Horsley. To undertake to properly discuss and point out the many superior points and fitting qualifications possessed by each of the above named gentlemen so well suited them to their profession would require more time and space, by far, than the Post finds at its disposal in this issue. However, it may truthfully be said of them at no one place in Virginia is there to be found an equal number of lawyers possessed of more talent and ability than that to be found among the attorneys of Big Stone Gap. All of them are men who work and study, and devote their whole time to the law; possessed of honor and integrity, and enjoy the full confidence of the public.

Also in this issue will be found the law cards of Gen. A. L. Pridemore, Jonesville, Va., Alderson & Miller, Norton Va., or Wise C. H. Va., Burns & Fulton, Wise C. H. Va., or Lebanon, Va., and Mr. Geo. W. Blankenship, Jonesville, Va. These gentlemen have reputations in their profession that require no comment. They are known to the public as lawyers of ability and promptness who look after the interests of their clients and patrons.

\$166,831.350 Required for Next Year's Pension Roll. A \$10,000,000 Deficit.
The Secretary of the Interior has transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury the estimates required to pay pensions for the next fiscal year. It shows that \$166,831,350 will be necessary to pay pensions on account of the war and navy, including the maintenance of pension agencies, clerk hire and other incidental expenses. Of this amount it is estimated \$165,000,000 will be paid directly to pensioners. In addition to the estimate of \$146,737,350 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, a deficiency of \$10,500,000 is asked. During the first fiscal year of the present administration an estimate of \$89,500,000 in round numbers was sufficient to pay pensions and other incidental expenses.

A Million Friends.
A friend in need is a friend indeed, and not less than one million people have found just such a friend in Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds—if you have never used this Great Lung Medicine, one trial will convince you that it has wonderful curative powers in all diseases of Throat, Chest, and Lungs. Each bottle is guaranteed to do all that is claimed or money will be refunded. Trial bottles free at S. L. Whitehead & Co's, drug store, large bottles \$1.00, and \$1.50.

JAY GOULD DEAD.

No Longer in Danger of Dynamite and Anarchists.

But Where is He?

New York, Dec. 2.—Jay Gould died at 9:15 o'clock this morning. The direct cause of Mr. Gould's death, as stated at the house this morning, was pulmonary consumption. The scene at the house at midnight was not extraordinary. It was stated that at that time the strong master mind had ceased to battle for life. His children were at his bedside and they recognized that the hopes of the past few days were vanishing and that the end was not far off. They tearfully admitted this to a few close personal friends, and then began the vigil which only ceased when the last breath left the body.

Early last evening it became known that his death was only a matter of a few hours. He had never rallied after he had a hemorrhage of the lungs on the day before Thanksgiving. He had another hemorrhage two days later, and still another last Wednesday. This announcement was a great surprise to all but the most intimate acquaintances of Mr. Gould. It had all along been supposed that he was suffering from nervous dyspepsia.

From an early hour last night Mr. Gould began sinking rapidly. Dr. Munn and his physician had Dr. Janeway in consultation, but they said nothing could be done but to make Mr. Gould's last hours as comfortable as possible. Dr. John R. Paxton, pastor of Mr. Gould's church was at the bedside last night. When the end came the members of the family present were Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gould, Mr. and Mrs. George Gould, Miss Helen Gould, Mr. Howard Gould, Mr. Harold Gould and Miss Annie Gould.

Dr. Paxton said Mr. Gould's end was very peaceful. Up to a few minutes before his death he was perfectly unconscious. The funeral will take place Monday. The funeral services will be held at the house and the interment will probably be in the same cemetery where the body of his wife lies.

The death of Mr. Gould was announced at the office of the Western Union Telegraph Company about 9:30 o'clock this morning. Most of the officials had not at that hour got to their offices.

Some action will be taken during the day at the office of the company out of respect to the memory of the dead.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.
Jay Gould was the son of a farmer and was born at Roxbury, N. Y., May 27th, 1830.

Before reaching his majority he made a survey of a great part of his State in the lumbering business, and in this acquired considerable means, so that in 1857 he was able to become the principal shareholder in the bank at Straudsburg, Pa. He manipulated this for two years and then went to New York City, where he established himself a broker in 1859, so rapidly had he accumulated means.

He was soon made president of the Erie Railroad Company, which he held until 1872. In the meanwhile, he was rapidly accumulating stocks and bonds of railroad companies and telegraph unions.

In 1882 a question of commercial stability was raised. Then it was that Mr. Gould took the affective and unique step of putting up securities to the amount of \$53,000,000 face value and offered to put up \$20,000,000 additional. He offered. The question has not been raised since. In 1887 it was estimated that he controlled 13,000 miles of railroad in the United States, or about one-tenth of the total amount.

The Mission of a Newspaper.
The point wherein many so-called newspapers fall far short of being truly newspapers is the great lack of home news in their news columns. A paper, to be interesting to the people of the town in which it is published and throughout the section in which it circulates, should devote more space to home news, home enterprises and home people than to any other department. This is its true mission to assist in building up the town, in benefiting the people who support it, and in fostering and advancing, so far as is in its power, all home enterprises and industries.

Shortsightedness is a serious failing with many publishers. They place too high an estimate on their influence and hold it in reserve, to a great extent, fearing they will benefit some one in some way without getting pay for it; in other words, they hold it back with a view of dealing it out in "broken doses" at the advertised rate of ten cents per line.

The Post is not made of this kind of stuff. It is here for the purpose of benefiting the people of Big Stone Gap and the people of the country surrounding us, whose interests are identified with ours.

It is not expected, or even hoped for, that the paper will reach that high standard of perfection wherein it will be an ideal paper—the pet of everybody—for the men who could run a better paper than the Post will whittle up many a dry goods box in the next twelve months, but it will be a paper that will not be afraid to say what it thinks, will benefit you whenever it can, will devote its time and best energies to home development, and will try to make you feel that the one dollar subscription price paid for it is the best spent money of the year.

CUT NAILS VS. WIRE NAILS.
A Series of Tests to Establish Their Relative Merits and Usefulness.

A series of interesting and valuable tests to decide the much controverted question as to the comparative merits of wire nails and cut nails are being made at the United States Arsenal in Watertown. The relative value of these two kinds of nails has always been a subject for many conflicting and confusing claims on the part of competing manufacturers, and it is a matter on which builders and others interested are from being satisfied.

An agreement was recently reached among some prominent manufacturers to submit the matter to a decisive test which should demonstrate the real facts beyond possibility of argument. The use of the Government's testing machine at the

Watertown arsenal was secured, and the tests are being made by a committee representing manufacturers in all parts of the country under the direct supervision of Major J. W. Reilly, commandant of the arsenal.

At the first test the size of the cut nails tested ranged from 1 1/2-incl, three-penny, 764, 10 6-incl spike nail, forty-penny and sixty-penny, six to seventeen to the pound. Wire nails to correspond as nearly as possible were used. The nails were driven into a well-seasoned spruce plank to a depth of precisely four inches. The weight of the nails differed only two grammes, the wire nails 214 and the cut nails 212 grammes.

In the first test a force of 733 pounds was required to draw the wire nail and, of 836 pounds to draw the cut nail of similar size. The second wire nail was pulled with 675 and the cut nail with 742. The third wire nail required 675 pounds of pressure, the third cut nail 804, the fourth wire nail 594, the fourth cut 964. These were the character of the variations of the fifth and sixth tests. The seventh wire nail was pulled with 879 pounds pressure, but 1,200 pounds of force was required to draw out the cut nail of like size.

Every care was taken to have the tests strictly fair and accurate. The results from the initial test are highly satisfactory to the manufacturers and advocates of the cut nails. The tests are to last over several days, and the merits of every kind of wire and cut nail are to be thoroughly tried.

Sport for Sportsmen.
Five thousand young trout have been assigned by the Government Fish Commission to the various mountain streams in and near Big Stone Gap. They will be shipped to Mr. James W. Fox, who is in charge of their general distribution. On the evening of November 16th, at a meeting held for the purpose, the following assignments were made by Mr. Fox to the different streams mentioned and a committee appointed for each stream, to take charge of and properly distribute the fish:

CALHOUN, MUD, LICK, PREACHER AND TRIBUTARIES.
J. K. Taggart in charge—R. T. Irvine, J. E. VanDeventer, S. W. Thacker, C. E. Bilbs, W. K. Kilbourne, Fred Hoback, J. P. Wolf and C. R. Smith. 1,000.

SOUTH FORK.
James A. Youell in charge—John W. Fox, Sr., Capt. Matheny, A. W. Irvine, W. S. Beverley, A. W. Tracy, Bob Brown, John P. Nickles, J. M. Kilbourne, W. H. Blanton, W. S. Palmer, L. Parr, J. K. Jennings, J. M. Willis, Gordon Gilley. 500.

PIGION CREEK.
James M. Hodge in charge—D. H. Shelby, Henry Bush, C. M. Harris.

LOONEY CREEK.
Horace E. Fox, in charge—E. M. Hardin, John Goodloe, L. O. Pettit. 500.

POWELL'S RIVER.
W. F. Wollaston in charge—J. H. Allen, W. S. Barbour, George Huttel. 500.

HIGH KNOB.
Judge Maury in charge—O. E. Fox, Dr. Board. 500.

ROARING FORK.
D. C. Anderson in charge—J. J. Kelley, Sam Wax, Ben Kilbourne, Malcolm Smith. 500.

SPECIAL WORK.
Dr. C. D. Kunkel in charge—H. C. McDowell, J. L. Kelly, H. H. Bullitt, John W. Fox, Jr., Harry Ayers, J. F. Bullitt, Jr., W. K. Shelby, E. J. Bird, John B. Payne, Jr., W.