

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A scientist has discovered that a person who wears silk underwear will be struck by lightning. This is a most important and valuable addition to human knowledge, if true. But, unfortunately it seems to have the same deficiency that marks the very valuable proverb: "You can always catch a bird if you put salt on its tail."

A Paris correspondent of the London Times writes: "Quite recently a bull fight was organized at Dijon, but matadors, toreros, bulls and trapplings had to go as they came. Nobody would patronize the horrible spectacle. The thing fell utterly through want of patronage. It may be remembered that a similar fiasco occurred in Paris not long after the exhibition of 1889. Bull fights did, indeed, disgrace that huge consoling affair, but ultimately the arena was pulled down and the fittings sold for a mere song. Parisians were disgusted with the whole concern. It is to be hoped for the honor of France that the prefects of the South will remorselessly carry out their instructions and banish this relic of barbarism from French soil."

Nearly 80,000 barrels of California flour were sent to England this year, and for the two years preceding there had been no shipment of this flour. The shipment of flour from Pacific ports in the United States to Japan, China, Siberia and Australia is also increasing in a much larger ratio. Formerly what San Francisco lost in these shipments was taken by the English ports, but the establishment of new steamship lines for freight from Oregon and Seattle and Tacoma to Asiatic ports has kept the increasingly important flour export within the control of the United States shippers.

It is a popular idea that the Indians of North America are fast disappearing and that in a few years they will have vanished as a race. The truth is that there are nearly 250,000 of them, exclusive of the Alaskans.

A scientific study of the fig industry in Turkey has resulted in the discovery of the fact that the failure of the Smyrna fig-trees in California to bear fruit is on account of the lack of caprifig. It was found that in the fig-growing districts of the Orient there are two distinct varieties of fig-trees—one the edible fig and the other the capri or wild fig. In Turkey, and in other lands along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, both varieties are indigenous, and it has been the custom of the Arab fruit-growers from time immemorial to gather annually bunches of twice or thrice as many capri, or wild figs, and hang them among, or close to, the cultivated fig-trees. Further investigation showed that the reason for this was to facilitate the progress of an insect known to entomologists as the blastophaga, or fig wasp, from the wild or capri fig to the cultivated fruit. The wasp is born in the wild fig, and emerging thence goes to the cultivated fig bearing pollen on its wings and legs, and thus fertilizes the cultivated fruit when young. Specimens of the capri fig were brought to this State immediately. In 1903, when the wild fig-trees bore their first fruit on American soil, experiments were made in several localities with the pollen from them on the green fruit of the now large trees that have been imported from Smyrna. As weeks advanced the fruit that had not been fertilized shriveled and dropped from the trees, as it had done each summer season for six years, while the fertilized fruit ripened and proved the peer of any that was ever packed and shipped from Turkey.

The provisions of the new German Civil Code with regard to married women are arousing renewed indignation now that the bill is passed, and immediately before the decisive day a petition of protest to the Reichstag was numerously signed in the chief cities of the Empire. The hardship of the new law is that it reaffirms the principle of perpetual tutelage for the German wife and mother. By marriage she is deprived of control over her property and her actions and of all rights over her children. She is in a position of subjection to her husband from which English, American, Russian, Scandinavian, Austrian, Hungarian and Italian women have been freed by the legislatures of those countries. To put it briefly, while among 170,000,000 of people married women possess control over their property, and are not deprived of the rights they enjoyed when single, 60,000,000 are now declaring for a perpetuation of the barbarous old principles of pre-civilized epochs. The married state in Germany is, as German opinion has forcibly expressed it, to be made a byword among the nations. The proposed law sets upon matrimony the seal of servitude and minority or wardship; it degrades the life of the nation among people who have raised marriage to a place of honor and equality.

The Milwaukee Journal describes a new style of coffin, which it says has been invented for wealthy people. To all appearances it is simply a luxurious couch. In mechanical construction it is as nearly perfect as can be made. The sides, the ends and the corners are fitted with silver hinges to drop to a perpendicular, and virtually show the coffin turned inside out. This inside shows a couch of exquisite design and the most perfect workmanship, massive, substantial and elegant. It has a soft spring bed and adjustable pillows, and is finished with rich cream-colored silk, with heavy silk ball fringe to match. With the dropping of the sides the fringe falls to the floor, forming the bottom of the catafalque, and when the casket is closed forms a rich drape where the lining usually is. The perfect arrangement of the millionaire's coffin permits its use also with only the ends and one side dropped, showing then a couch with an upright back. When the proper time comes all that is necessary is to raise the coffin sides, clamp them together by a simple mechanical contrivance and place the lid on.

Recent discussion of the best means of protecting our harbors in case of war has called renewed attention to experiments on the power of great guns. The result of one of these experiments has been used as an argument in favor of placing guns at 16 inches calibre at certain points on the coast. In the case referred to a projectile weighing 1800 pounds was fired from such a gun. The target consisted of a compound plate of steel and iron 20 inches thick, and a second plate of iron 8 inches thick, backed by a mass of square oak timber 20 feet thick, backed in turn by a granite wall 5 feet thick, behind which was 11 feet of solid concrete, while the rear of the target consisted of a 6-foot wall of brick. The projectile, fired at close range, passed through the 28 inches of iron and steel, through the 20 feet of oak, through the 5 feet of granite, through the 11 feet of concrete, and more than half-way through the 6 feet of brick behind them all! What, say the advocates of heavy guns for coast defense, would be the chance of any battle-ship in existence against such a projectile as that?

The French people, who have for so long imposed upon a credulous American public by shipping back to them as the finest of French products Maine herring and southern cotton seed oil in the shape of sardines and olive oil, are now suffering from a counter imposition which is brought to light by United States Consul Germain at Zurich. In the course of a report to the State Department on the subject of American dried fruits in Switzerland, he speaks of the success that has attended the introduction in France last season of California prunes and then following out the prospects thus opened up, he says that the French receivers are arranging to have all such fruit packed in cases similar to those used in France and bearing French marks, so that the goods may be sold to the retailer as French fruit.

The pests of mosquitoes in the Fraser river valley is the same visitation which makes mining in Alaska in the short summer one continual torture. In these northern latitudes the mosquitoes reach a size and ferocity that would appall even a New Jersey coast farmer, and if Alaska becomes the great bonanza which its admirers claim is its destiny, the man who invents something to discourage the mosquito will have within his reach a greater fortune than the locator of the richest ledge.

Japan is having a boom. Over \$400,000,000 of local capital has been invested in new enterprises within a year and there are already twenty clock, two watch and several bicycle factories, while silk and cotton mills may be counted by the score. Her foreign trade is rapidly increasing and is now \$265,000,000 a year, or six times as much as 20 years ago.

People who are disposed to look on the bright side of things are comforting themselves with the reflection that the population of the country is increasing, and that the army worms have disappeared.

## FIRES IN GREAT FORESTS.

Preventive Work Accomplished by the Fire Warden of Minnesota.

The report of the chief fire warden of Minnesota has been published, and contains many statements of interest. As part of the precautionary measures adopted, about 18,000 placards, warning against kindling fires in forests or prairie were distributed. Twenty-seven fires in forest regions, including those in brush lands and marshes, are reported. They burned over an aggregate area of 8,265 acres, and did damage to the amount of \$3,125. The wet weather of last year greatly reduced the losses. In the prairie region of the western side of the state dry, windy conditions were conducive to the spreading of fire, during the period of August to November, and 105 field prairie fires occurred, burning over about 73,000 acres and causing a damage of \$34,277. In the same territory in 1894 about 400,000 acres were burned over. The local wardens controlled and extinguished many fires. The state warden had consulted manufacturers of locomotives in the United States and England with reference to the best spark arrester. It is learned that no such device is wholly efficient, as fine sparks are always likely to escape.

The warden says that the 7,000 Chippewa Indians who are scattered throughout Minnesota forests are more careful about extinguishing their forest fires than white people. The greater number of fires are caused by locomotive sparks, but the careless farmer, burning over fields before ploughing, and the threshing machines are also a great source of danger. It is the business of the warden to prevent as well as to extinguish fires. In the forest region of Minnesota the government still holds 6,000,000 acres of public land. These are visited by home-seekers, timber "cruisers" and hunters. The warden remarks that "when people become educated as to the true economic values of forests, and to a comprehension of the danger and damage from forest fires, every man and boy who frequents the woods will be a voluntary watchman to guard against such fires."

About 12,000 workmen are employed in the logging industry of Minnesota. It is estimated that the total amount of white pine standing is 14,424,000,000 feet, and of red or Norway pine, 3,412,475,000 feet. In twenty-three counties there are 10,880,000 acres of natural forest and in the state there are 11,800,000 acres of natural forest, not including mere brush or swamp land. The annual cut of pine for each of the past three years is estimated at 1,500,000 feet. The consumption of mercantile hard wood lumber in Minnesota is estimated at 100,000,000 feet annually. —Indianapolis News.

## Wood-Pulp Dresses Worn.

Only a few months ago we first heard of silk being made from wood pulp. But already wood-pulp silk is a fashionable fabric, and dresses made of it are among this season's novelties in Paris. There is a large factory established for its production at Bessamen, France. Another will soon be started at Lancashire, England, in which country this artificial silk made from wood pulp has come quite in vogue. Its price is much cheaper than the real silk. It can be used for every purpose that real silk is and others besides, and so near like the original it is that it takes a skilled hand to distinguish it.

A cow wandered into the town hall of Klugman, Ariz., where the county records are kept, and she ate some of them and tattered the rest.

## FOUND—FIFTEEN DOLLARS.

And How the Girl in Pink Shirt Waist Would Have Spent It.

"Look what I have found!" cried the girl in the pink shirt waist, "a glove with a 5-bill tucked in one finger and a ten in another."

"My goodness," said the girl in the linen suit, "I always thought that such a safe way to carry money."

"Why, so did I," said the girl in the lace cape, "I often—"

"And I," said the girl in the linen suit, "it always seemed safer than a pocketbook, because everyone knows that is to carry money in, while nobody—"

"What are you going to do with it?" asked the girl in the lace cape. "I don't know," said the girl in the pink shirt waist; "I suppose somebody will claim it, or I shall see an advertisement in the morning paper to—"

"I shouldn't look at the advertisement at all," said the girl in the linen suit, "though, of course, if you just happen to hear of anyone who lost—"

"Oh, I shall," said the girl in the pink shirt waist, "I never did have any such luck."

"You could buy some awfully nice things with \$15," said the girl in the lace cape. "Goodness me, how hungry I am, and I've only my car fare left."

"So am I," said the girl in the linen suit, "and I've nothing but a punctured quarter. Oh, Effie, do look at those lovely organdies! If I had \$15, I—"

"But you know it really doesn't belong to me yet; somebody might—"

"I just don't believe they will," said the girl in the lace cape. "Anyhow, people who are so careless deserve to lose their money. Oh, Effie, I know a place where they have the loveliest lace—if I had any money left I'd treat you both, but—"

"Well, after all, I doubt if I ever find out who lost it."

"Of course you won't," said the girl in the linen suit, "if you advertise somebody might get it; then you'd just be encouraging vice."

"Why, so I would," said the girl in the pink shirt waist. "I suppose the money really belongs to me. How far is it to the place where they keep those laces?"

"Oh just a little way. Dear me, Effie, how well you look in that new hat!"

"Doesn't she? Oh, Effie, I heard somebody pay you a lovely compliment the other day, but I'm too faint to tell it now."

"Let us go and get some laces," said the girl in the pink shirt waist; "we can have a nice long talk over there. I'll get the organdies when I come back."

"How nice," said the girl in the lace cape, "look, girls, here comes Enid; how pale she is, too. Do you suppose Dick has—"

"Oh, Enid," said the girl in the pink shirt waist, "do join us. We are going for some laces, and—"

"Oh, girls, I can't, I'm nearly wild; I've just lost \$15. It was in a tan-colored glove; \$5 in one and \$10—why Effie, you dear thing, you have it in your hand! Where did you find it?"

"Over yonder by the lace counter," said the girl in the pink shirt waist, faintly. "I was just wondering how to find the owner."

"Yes," said the girl in the lace cape, "we were just consulting as to the best plan—"

"You really should be more careful," said the girl in the linen suit. "Suppose some dishonest person had—"

"I know it. I shall be more careful in future. Now, Effie, I should be glad to accept your invitation. An ice would—"

"I—I think I must go home now," said the girl in the pink shirt waist. "I—that is, I am not feeling very well. Can anybody lend me a nickel for car fare?" —Chicago Times-Herald.

## Chicago's Bridges.

Few people realize that Chicago today possesses more bridges in number than any other city in America. Collectively they constitute a greater total length in miles than any other system. The extent of a single span of one of the swing bridges is greater than that of any other bridge. Modern bridge construction is embodied in and illustrated with a greater variety of perfected mechanical devices in Chicago than is the case in any other city in the world.

Standing out like monuments erected to engineering skill, to a people's enterprise, and to mechanical perfection, these bridges present a greater variety of admirable features, and are evidences of better workmanship, than can be found in the best of all the cities in either the old or the new world.

Chicago has sixty-eight bridges spanning the river and its branches at every point where commerce and traffic demand a passageway. There are thirty-eight systems of viaducts, which bespeak as many safeguards for the people against the dangers of railroad transportation. Represented among these sixty-eight bridges is to be found every description of swing or draw bridge which the world possesses today that is of practical value. They constitute within a radius of a few miles a congeries of mechanical devices which captivate the spectator with their perfection and diversity of arrangements. —Chicago Inter Ocean.

## Fish in Deep Water.

A highly original observation upon the behavior of fish in deep water, so remarkable as to deserve special notice, is attributed to a long-experienced captain of a fishing smack. The fishing-boats belonging to the Southern portions of the North Sea found in their catch lately a disproportionately small quantity of codfish. The captain maintained that he had foreseen this for eight days, because most of the fish caught had sand in their stomachs. He claims to have observed that just before the fish left the shallow water of the Southern banks they took sand in to their stomachs and soon after fish caught in deeper Northern waters showed the same peculiarity. Then, when the time for migrating from the deep waters came again, the fish disposed of the sand. The theory has been advanced that the sand is taken in as ballast, and is rejected when shallow water is to be returned to. The sand often differs in color and grain from that of the bottom where the fish are found. It is claimed that this sand may supply a guide for the fishermen.

# FRANK GAZZOLO,

## Prescription Druggist..

490 West Madison St., Cor. Loomis.

Telephone West 22.



C. M. NETTERSTROM.

JAMES BAIRSTOW.

# Netterstrom & Bairstow,

## STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

815 Chamber of Commerce.

Telephone 4788 Main

CHICAGO



# W. H. CAMERON,

## Mason Contractor

PLANS FURNISHED. ESTIMATES GIVEN.

Room 8, 177 La Salle St.

THOMAS O'BAN.

THOMAS STYER

# GAHAN & BYRNE,

## GENERAL CONTRACTORS,

42d and Halsted Streets.

GEO. P. BUNKER.

D. W. ANDREWS.

W. S. CANTRELL.

# Geo. P. Bunker & Co.,

CITY HEADQUARTERS

## CORTLAND WAGON CO.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

# FINE CARRIAGES,

## TRAPS, BUCCIES,

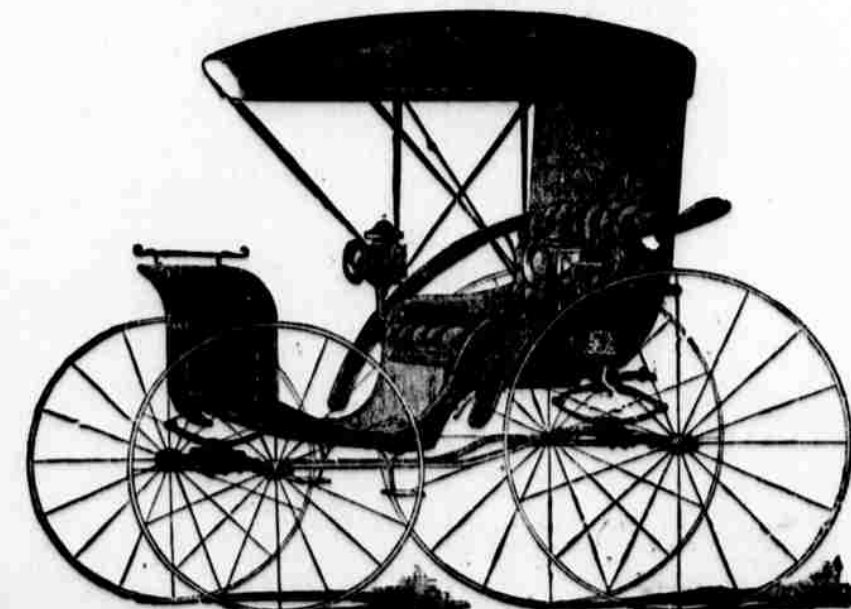
## HARNESS,

## BICYCLES, ETC.

350-352 WABASH AVENUE, CHICAGO.

Tel. Harrison 546.

G. C. St. Clair, Manager.



# WATSON & HAZLETON,

## ARCHITECTS

64 EAST ADAMS ST.

Suite 49 Dexter Bldg.

Telephone Harrison 88

# E. J. MOLLOY,

## Mason Contractor and Builder

Box 218, Builders and Traders' Exchange.

CHICAGO, ILL.

# WARREN H. MILNER,

## County Architect,

ROOMS 937, 938 and 939

Chicago Stock Exchange Building.

M. B. MADDEN, President.

C. B. KIMBELL, Vice President.

F. T. HASKELL, Treasurer.

J. E. LINDQUIST, Secretary.

# Western Stone Company,

DEALERS IN

Rough, Sawed and Machine Dressed Stone.

CAPITAL, \$2,250,000.

Successors to the Singer & Talcott Stone Co.; Excelsior Stone Co.; Chicago and Lewmont Stone Co.; Joliet Stone Co.; Cornsue Stone Co.; Bockensatz & Earnshaw Stone Co.; Lockport Stone Co.; Crescent Stone Co. Quarries—LEWONT, ILL., LOCKPORT, ILL., JOLIET, ILL.

Main Office, Room 320 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

Telephone Main 347.

Cor. Washington and La Salle Sts.

R. E. BROWNELL,

President.

M. H. GROSS,

Vice Pres.

GEORGE C. LAZEAR,

Sec. and Treas.

# Brownell Improvement Co.,

CONTRACTORS FOR

## PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

and Manufacturers and Dealers in

# Crushed Stone.

Tel Main 44.

Office, 207 Tacoma Bldg., Chicago.

# Lonsdale

## Green....

# Architect,

1139 Stock Exchange Building,

La Salle and Washington Sts.