

THE PINE KNOT.

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The locomotive industrial works of the United States have been very busy lately, in the production of new motors for the increasing traffic of our own and foreign roads. This is shown very forcibly in the report of the last six months' production of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia. With labor force of 2,000 men, 318 locomotives, nearly two per day, have been finished. Orders for 150 more are in hand, and it is expected that the output for the year will reach the grand total of 650.

It is asserted by Mr. Ashburner, the geologist, that not only is natural gas not a modern or recent discovery, but that even its utilization for the purposes of the mechanic arts was long ago successfully attempted in China, where, by pipes of bamboo, it was conveyed from natural wells to suitable furnaces, and by means of terra cotta burners of suitable size and construction, was consumed. Of its origin, concerning which so many diverse theories have been advanced, Mr. Ashburner is strongly of the opinion that the gas arises from the decomposition of forms of animal or vegetable life imbedded in the rocks in certain situations.

There are 400 Mormon bishops in Utah, 2,463 priests, 2,947 teachers and 5,854 deacons. Salt Lake City is divided into wards of eight or nine blocks each, and a bishop is put in charge of each ward. Under him there are two teachers, whose business it is to learn the employment and income of every resident of the ward and report the same to the bishop. Then the bishop collects the tenth of each man's income and turns it in to the church authorities. The same complete system exists all over the Territory. As the bishops get a good commission on their collections they make very zealous and persistent collectors.

A reporter of the New York Tribune has been making a tour of prominent business houses in various lines of trade and summarizes the result as follows: "So far as could be learned by observation and personal inquiry, the healthful indications instanced were common to all the various lines of trade. The closeness of prices and stirring competition are facts that aid materially in swelling the activity of the autumn market. Besides, there are a larger number of actual buyers present from East, South, West and Southwest, than have been seen here for many years. Commission houses and manufacturers report also a large increase in the line of future orders for both foreign and domestic goods, indicating that the foundation of the present improvement is not of a transient and evanescent character, but that an area of prosperity is dawning which gives promise not only of health and briskness but, it is hoped, of permanence also."

It is expected that the cotton crop of the United States this year will fall little short of 7,000,000 bales. The mills throughout the country are reported to be running short of unmanufactured stock, and extensive purchases will probably be made this month. According to the Boston Commercial Bulletin, the visible supply of cotton in the world is now in the immediate vicinity of 1,250,000 bales, against 1,150,000 bales last year and 2,175,000 bales in 1885.

It will, perhaps, surprise many persons to know how many spies of the French Government have been arrested and punished in Germany since 1875—more than thirty. Of course, such incidents are kept somewhat quieter than during any belligerent times. Loison, arrested at Metz, received ten years in 1876; Lieutenant Tissot, three years in 1882; Krazewski, nine years in 1881; Baron de Graillet and Baron von Krettmair, five years each in 1882; Captain Sarant, twelve years, and solitary confinement, in 1886, and Thomas, of the Imperial Arsenal at Spandau, ten years in the same year.

English railroads do the major portion of their own carting, collecting and delivering freight at the freighter's doors. One of the largest companies, the Midland, has in constant employment no fewer than 3,200 horses; and of these 1,000 are located in London. Some of these horses are, however, employed in switching cars, at which business a heavy horse weighing about 2,000 pounds can do good service. They soon become very expert, and start the car by standing with the trace chain slack, and then, without moving their feet, throw their shoulders forward, when their weight starts the car. They also learn to judge when the car has acquired sufficient speed, and step aside without a word of command, letting the cars come gently together.

A Strategic Crow.

I must not stop speaking of crows without telling how one of them freed its young from a cage in which I had placed them. The cage was a latticed summer-house and the two young crows were turned loose in this. The crow evidently noticed that I went to feed these and some rabbits whenever the big dinner bell rang. This was suspended over the kitchen and was erected to call the hands to dinner, from any part of the place. One day I was in my office, a little room in the front yard, when I heard the bell ring. I at once arose and started for the kitchen to get food for my crows and rabbits. I found the cook in high indignation, being unable to discover what rascal had rung the bell or half hour fore dinner. I very shortly discovered the crow ringing it. Taking the food out, I went to the rabbit or summer-house. The crow flew quite near me. I opened the door. At once it made a savage attack on me. Throwing down the food, I looked about for a stick to defend myself. In doing this I left the door open. The two youngsters hopped out. Seeing these the old one flew into a tree and called them to join her. I made a furious rush, but it was too late. Both were in the air. They escaped. To this day I can recall the grin of exultation which illuminated the face of that crow when she saw my chagrin.—*Memphis Avalanche.*

An Indian Publishing House.

The remarkable publishing house of Munshi Newal Kishore, in Lucknow, has no rival in the civilized world, except, perhaps, Abbe Migne's great publishing establishment in Paris. The publisher is a Mohammedan, but keeps his religious prejudices in the background. He prints school-books, scientific treatises, sacred works for the Hindus, editions of the Koran, and voluminous commentaries for his fellow-worshippers in the Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Urdu, Brashie, and English languages. His "book agents" are to be found not only in all the great Hindoo centres of population, but in the East Indies, among the Afghans, in Teheran, Constantinople, Cairo, and in the Soudan.

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Neal Low on Prohibition.

Neal Dow spoke at a recent temperance meeting in New York, saying: "The work in Maine was begun among the people. We knew that to change the laws we must influence the Legislature, and to do this we must secure votes from the people. We went, therefore, to them and we spoke to them of the ruin and desolation which the grogshops were bringing in their train. At that time we had the system of licenses established. In other words, we recognized liquor selling by law. This recognition I regard as a sin against God and a crime against man. I am unable to understand how any sensible and fair minded man can believe in license, because before you can license a thing you must think it good. The greatest obstacle that Prohibition has met with has been the work done by good, earnest men for high license. High license men are stampeding our friends. The only effect of their work is to give life to the traffic. Every intelligent man knows the saloon is the cause of misery and wretchedness in the community, that it makes good citizens into bad ones. How, then, can men say to rum-sellers: 'We will give you a license for your hellish trade if you will only give us money enough.' I call it hellish because it does hellish work. Now, these men want to do what is right, and they urge that they will restrict and limit the sale by license."

"In Maine we worked upon public opinion until, while the License law remained upon the books, there was not a license granted in the State. Then we obtained the present law. The late Thurlow Weed wrote that Prohibition was a failure. It is not. In Maine within six months after the law was passed the greater part of our jails were empty. We had five prisoners in Portland, three being liquor sellers. People charge two things—first, that more liquor is drunk in Maine because it is prohibited, and second, that there is more vice and crime there than ever. Neither is true. The Maine Liquor law is good, but when a few necessary changes have been made in it there will not be a liquor seller in the State."

How we spend our money: Missions, \$5,000,000; public education, \$85,000,000; sugar and molasses, \$150,000,000; boots and shoes, \$196,000,000; cotton goods, \$210,000,000; lumber, \$233,000,000; woolen goods, \$237,000,000; iron and steel, \$250,000,000; meat, \$280,000,000; tobacco, \$350,000,000; bread, \$565,000,000; liquors, \$900,000,000.

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