

THE PINE KNOT.

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Correspondence on all topics of general interest invited. Write only on one side of the paper; be brief and to the point. Sign your name and state whether you wish it published or not.

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Since Prohibition went into effect in Raleigh, N. C., the largest saloon in the city has been turned into a shoe factory, which will employ more persons than all the dramshops in the city.

A German paper says that extraordinary activity is displayed at the Krupp Works in Essen, and that new buildings are required to enable the works to complete the orders for guns for the German Government within the specified time. This is not a sign of peace by any means.

A physician, referring to the custom of traveling on sleeping cars with the berths made up with their heads towards the engine, said: "It is certainly bad for the brain of the sleeper, as it is not natural, and it is no wonder that so many travelers, especially those who have been on the road exclusively, experience bad effects from it."

The plan of throwing a bridge over the Straits of Messina, that separate Sicily from Italy, will, when consummated, be one of the most striking feats of modern engineering. The place selected is where the channel is two and one-half miles wide and three hundred and sixty-one feet deep, and two piers will support a viaduct of steel rails to a height of three hundred and twenty-eight feet above the water.

A Springfield (Mass.) man has discovered what has long been pretty well known—that the real mission of the mosquito is to purify. He had two hogsheads filled with water, and into one he put a lot of wrigglers or embryo mosquitoes. The water free from the wrigglers soon became foul, but that containing them remained sweet. So he concludes that mosquitoes keep our swamps from becoming foul and pestilent.

The attention of all electricians is called to the fact that the French Government has offered a prize of 50,000 francs (about \$10,000) for a scheme rendering the application of electricity possible and economical as a means of heat, light, chemical action, mechanical action, mechanical purposes and medical purposes. The adjudication of the prize is left to the Academy of Science at Paris, and correspondence from all nations is invited.

There is a specimen in the United States mint which illustrates how a coin may become famous without the least premonition. In 1849 a law passed Congress ordering \$20 gold pieces to be struck. One piece was struck. Something happened that delayed the work, and the year closed. Then, of course, the dies had to be destroyed, as no more of that date could be legally issued. It is marked "unique," was the only one struck and hence is "priceless."

Talbot's Long Head.

"The Lake Shore folks were awfully glad when a certain man died up in Buffalo the other day," said a conductor. "The man's name was Talbot. About twelve years ago Talbot saved a train from going into a washout near his farm, and of course the company felt very grateful. P. P. Wright, Superintendent of the Buffalo division, sent for him and loaded him with thanks for himself and the company. Talbot modestly declined a money present of \$500, but said he didn't object when Wright proposed making out for him a pass good for the remainder of his life. While Wright was writing out the pass Talbot inquired:

"Say, Mr. Wright, have you any objections to making that read good for me and a friend? I may want to take a friend up to Cleveland with me some time to see an uncle of mine."

"Wright was so full of gratitude that he couldn't object to anything, and the man got his pass, good for himself and friend, and it was afterwards sent on to headquarters and countersigned by the President and general passenger agent.

"Well, now, what do you think? For more than ten years that man Talbot has been riding constantly between Buffalo and Chicago, Buffalo and Cleveland, or Buffalo and Toledo. He was never alone. He always had 'a friend' with him. The friend was usually some commercial traveller. In short, Talbot has made railroad riding his regular business. He made arrangements with various wholesale and jobbing houses to carry their men, and booked his engagements months ahead sometimes. When these failed he picked up stray passengers here and there. After paying his sleeping car and other expenses he had \$6 or \$8 a day left as clear profit, and out of these profits he managed to amass a snug little fortune. He tried to use his pass on the limited express, but the company wouldn't have it. In fact, they wanted to refuse to carry him altogether, but their lawyer concluded that the suit for damages would be too expensive. Talbot is dead now, though greatly to the regret of several travelling salesmen."—Chicago Herald.

Where Genius is Admired.

A stranger who had just arrived at a country hotel in Arkansas, became involved in a hot discussion with the clerk. Finally the stranger, striking the rough pine counter with his fist, exclaimed:

"You are the biggest liar in Arkansas!"

The clerk, instead of becoming offended, said:

"Let me see you a minute, please." He drew the stranger aside and remarked:

"Who told you?"

"Who told me what?"

"That I am the biggest liar in the state."

"No one."

"Then how did you find it out?"

"I knew it at a glance."

"My friend," said the clerk, affectionately placing one hand on the stranger's shoulder, "you are the sharpest man I ever saw. It took me some time to find it out, but I am the biggest liar in the state. If you were as good a judge of a hoss as you are of a man, you could soon get rich in this country. Stay at our house as long as you please, and your board shall not cost you a cent. You will not find a place in this country where genius is admired as much as it is at this hotel."—Arkansas Traveler.

Evening bonnets made of beads are in pale blue, pink, gold and crystal. Ostrich tips with pearl bead drops are used for trimming with picot-edged watered ribbon.

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