

THE PINE KNOT.

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The *Shoe and Leather Reporter* says that the strikes in the shoe trade during the last year have cost in wages from \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000. Nearly half this sum is said to have been lost in the five months' strike in Worcester county, Mass. The Wilmington strike of morocco workers lasted seven months and cost \$225,000. The strikes at Salem and Peabody, Mass., entail a loss of \$3,000,000 in wages. Lesser strikes bring up the total.

The monument over the grave of Israel Putnam, the Revolutionary hero, at Brookline, Conn., for which the State appropriated \$10,000, will be dedicated June 17, 1888, the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill. The remains of General Putnam, in remarkable preservation, were lately removed from the Brookline cemetery to the new site, and the old tombstone, with the inscription prepared by President Timothy Dwight, of Yale College, was deposited in the rooms of the State Historical Society at Hartford.

A prominent and experienced railroad engineer who has long held an important place in the West, declares that he had rather have under him men simply educated in high schools and practical work than graduates of technical schools. He says the latter are unwilling to take the advice and orders of their superiors because they are so full of impracticable book theories which they regard as the highest authority. There is something radically wrong in teaching which does not impress upon the mind of the student the fact that practical experience is the ultimate appeal. All young men just starting out are apt to be over-wise in their own conceit, and this fact needs especially to be kept in mind by instructors in institutions which claim to send men out trained for special branches of practical work.

The *Electrical World* presents some remarkable figures as to the use of the telephone in four European countries—Belgium, Holland, Italy, and Russia. The tables give a list of the exchange subscribers in each country. The total of such is, allowing for a few untabulated exchanges, about 19,000. In other words, in these countries, with a total population of 136,000,000, there are only 19,000 subscribers, all told, or one in every 7,158; while in the United States there are 147,000 subscribers in a population of 50,000,000, or one in every 340. The disparity is remarkable. There are as many telephone subscribers in New York and Brooklyn as in all Italy with its twenty-eight millions of people; as many in Boston as in Holland with its four millions; more in Chicago than in all the dominions of the Czar.

The cotton crop now maturing in the South promises to be the largest ever grown in the United States. It is estimated at 7,500,000 bales—500,000 bales more than were ever before grown in a single year. Cotton may no longer be king, but it is still in the royal family.

A careful estimate has been made by officials connected with State Attorney Grinnell's office in Chicago as to the amount of money stolen by the Cook county thieves in the two years from September 1884, to September, 1886. Not less than \$480,000 was stolen in 1884-'85, and fully \$520,000 in 1886-'87. The total is estimated at \$1,000,000 for the two years. The tax levy for county purposes for the same period was \$2,500,000—\$1,200,000 for 1884-'85 and \$1,300,000 for 1885-'86. The stealing, according to the estimate, amount to forty per cent. of the levy in both years.

An eminent English statesman, Mr. Giffen, has compiled tables which show in part the enormous sums sent back to the United Kingdom to the relatives and friends of emigrants who have gained homes in the United States. From 1848 to 1885, both years inclusive, there was forwarded from America through certain banks and mercantile houses \$155,092,935, a large part of which eventually passed into the pockets of Irish landlords. In the last six years covered by the tables the contributions were greatly increased, the annual average being \$7,427,474. Of course the statement is incomplete, for certain bankers declined to furnish the required information, and a great deal of money has reached Ireland from America without going through the hands of bankers. The average annual amount remitted from Australian colonies since 1875 has been only \$289,000.

Vivisection Dogs.

Dr. B. F. Curtis has been conducting a series of experiments on living animals to ascertain, if possible, the effects of injuries inflicted on and within the abdomen, and the best method of treating them. His inquiries are considered of especial importance by the profession. His experiments, or vivisections, were chiefly performed at the Carnegie Laboratory. The animals were dogs. Among other experiments the "buffer accident" was artificially produced. The dog, a large one, was given sufficient ether to be rendered unconscious, and while in this state he was placed on the floor on his back and a weight of six, eight, ten and twelve pounds was dropped on his stomach in different places from various heights to ascertain the amount of force necessary to rupture the internal organs, a matter about which there is much dispute among doctors, most of whom claim that great force is required. After the weights had been dropped the dog was placed on the operating table, given stimulants hypodermically, the cut open and the extent of the injuries noted. The intestines were ruptured in several places, demonstrating that the force required was far less than usually supposed. The ruptured intestines were carefully sewed up and the abdominal cavity washed out with an antiseptic solution.

The dog was then taken to the cellar of the building, where Dr. Curtis had arranged a dog hospital, which consisted of a vault in which a number of soap boxes were arranged along either side, in each of which a dog under treatment was placed and secured by a chain. The animal referred to above was a very sick dog, but pulled through and was made the subject of several more experiments before meeting his death. Almost every possible accident that can occur to the human abdomen was reproduced on the dogs, and every kind of treatment suggested by the most advanced scientific ideas tried. A large number of dogs were made subjects of vivisection, most of them finally losing their lives in the cause of science.—*New York World*.

Out in Iowa they have a new theory to account for drouths in summer. They think it is due to the artificial drainage, by means of which the surface water, which otherwise, it is explained, would stand around, evaporate, and cause showers, is made to flow off into the rivers.

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FACTS FOR THE CURIOUS.

There have been 267 Popes of the Church of Rome.

Bread was first made with yeast by the English about 1650.

Athelstan, in 928, first established uniform coin England.

Shakspeare's life and works have called forth comment to the extent of 10,000 varied volumes.

The Chinese inoculated for smallpox 100 B. C. Dr. Jenner made the first experiment in vaccination in May, 1796.

The highest silver deposit in the world is on King Solomon's mountain, in Colorado, fourteen thousand feet above the Pacific Ocean.

At feasts, three centuries ago, every guest brought his knife, and a whetstone was placed behind the door, upon which he sharpened his knife as he entered.

Smoothing-irons are of late invention. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth and James I. very large stones, inscribed with texts of scripture, were used for the purpose.

The admitted history of China began in 1122 B. C., and the Chinese claim twenty-two dynasties of emperors, two of them, Hia and Chang, before the age of Samuel.

It is estimated that 600 insects a day are destroyed by a pair of wrens. They have been observed to leave their nests and return with insects from forty to sixty times an hour.

The soil for house plants should receive attention, as medical men have found that malarial fever is propagated among occupants of rooms containing pots of malarious earth.

Turnpike roads were first established in England during the reign of Queen Anne, and were so called from poles or bars swung on a staple, and turned either way when dues were paid.

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