

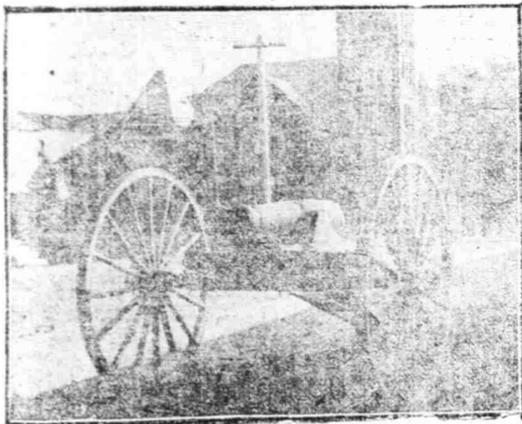
NEW THINGS STRANGE & CURIOUS.

WASHINGTON'S FLINTLOCK PISTOLS.



Two flintlock pistols which belonged to George Washington are the subject of a dispute just now as to ownership. They were recently sold at auction in Prince William county, Va. The pistols, which are a perfectly matched pair, are in the possession of Miss Marshall, who lives in Washington, D. C., 11th street, N. W. Some time before his death General Washington gave the pistols to Mr. Burdridge, a lawyer, and when Mr. Burdridge died they were disposed of at public sale with the other effects, under the direction of Pauline Washington. They brought only a few pounds, such relics having not yet secured the same respect as in earlier days. The grandfather of Miss Marshall bought the weapons, and in due time he left them to his son, Samuel A. Marshall, of Prince William county, Va. Samuel was the father of Miss Monnie, and when he died, a short time ago, one of her brothers bought the pistols to her and said that she should have them. Other relatives, however, have insisted upon forcing a sale of the property left behind by Samuel, and a suit, with the end in view, has been brought in the Circuit Court of Prince William county.

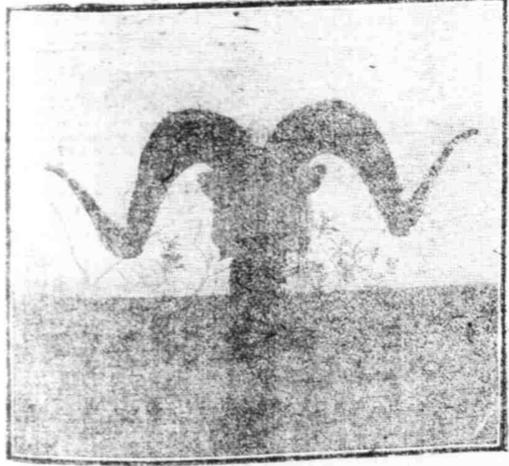
THE ONLY DOUBLE-BARRELED CANNON.



This cannon appears to be a double-barreled piece of ordnance, and, in fact, it is the only double-barreled cannon in the world. It stands in one of the public parks in Atlanta, Ga. In the early days of the civil war, a man named Gilsfeldt, who was an ardent southern sympathizer, conceived the idea of the gun and received permission to construct it at one of the local foundries. He modeled from his own design, and had it on a low truck and received the name of "The Yankee Demolisher" from the soldiers. It was to be loaded in the same way as the ordinary fieldpiece, with balls, but the balls were to be connected by a steel chain, several feet in length, fastened to staples welded into the projectiles. When the cannon was completed and ready for use Gilsfeldt decided to give it a trial on the hills in the suburbs. Unfortunately, the inventor was within range of the enemy and was struck by several links of the chain, with the result that he was lacerated senseless and one arm was literally shattered to pieces.

SPREAD OF RAM'S HORNS 51 INCHES.

One of the famous big horn sheep of the state of Alaska was killed this year by a hunting party of soldiers. Following expedition to the Yukon and Tanana and White Rivers. The ram measured seven inches through the horns and 42 inches in length. The horns were 51 inches in length. This is, without doubt, the largest specimen of big horn in the United States, the contour and symmetry being perfect. The "combs" shows the animal to be 17 years old, and the carcass weighed about 250 pounds. Its fleece was snow white, as is that of all of the big horns in that region. The sheep appeared to be the son of the flock, and was found on a point of rock overlooking the valley of the White River, surrounded by his eyes and limbs.



MIRRORS AS AID TO BILLIARDS.



Mirrors may soon become an indispensable adjunct of billiard tables, and if they do they will be arranged in the manner shown in the accompanying picture. Professor Faller, of Munich, was the first to suggest that mirrors should be utilized in this way, and experiments which he recently made before the members of the royal court of Bavaria convinced all who witnessed them that he was right. On this occasion six mirrors were attached to a billiard table, and the Professor pointed out how easy it was for a novice by their aid to make difficult strokes. He explained that the reason was because the mirrors showed distinctly the result of each stroke, or, in other words, facilitated the novice's play as much as possible. A full and scientific explanation, he promised, would soon be forthcoming in a book on which he has been engaged for some months. Expert players in Europe are surprised that this simple and exceptionally interesting discovery was not made before, and all agree that the game will be vastly improved as soon as the mirrors come into general use.

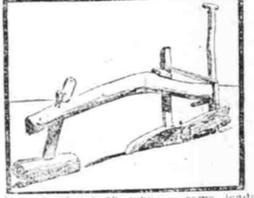
MAN POWER AT THE PUMP.

Wealthy haciendas in Mexico are spending thousands of dollars in scientific methods of irrigation, but thousands of dollars' worth of sugar cane, rice, fruits and vegetables are raised by very simple means, of which this is one. Barbed-wire Indians turn the water into whichever little ditch they wish by damming up another with stones and mud. The buckets used in this wheel contrivance are of wood as a usual thing. The idea is the same as that utilized in the patented chain and bucket pumps, though the brown fellows who make this rude affair never saw or heard of them.



Plow Used In China

China is decidedly behind the times so far as agricultural implements are concerned, as shown in the kind of plows which are generally used in that country. The only iron in this plow is a point, which turns down.



Time making new plows and repairing old ones. In this way farmers who have any old iron get it shaped into plow points for a small sum. Referring to this primitive plow, Mr. Henry B. Miller, United States consul at Nanchang, says that he considers China an excellent field for American agricultural implements. Any American plow, however, which is introduced, he says, "must be cheap, as cheap as it is possible to make it and so cheap that it would not be used in the United States."

Real Pull-Man Car.

In some of the interior portions of Mexico many primitive and curious sights are to be met. A typical and striking illustration of this is the picture of a learned Mexican judge going in his state coach to hold his court in a distant town. His vehicle is what can be termed literally the original "pull-man car." Though decidedly void of the speed and luxury of its present-day ramshackle, the Roman chariot-like cart is composed entirely of wood, the two wheels being sawed ends of the Brazil wood tree. The car is used by a judge living in one of the mountain districts of Northwest Mexico, who prefers for his motive power two strong ponies. The country is hilly and difficult to drive over. Mules and donkeys have been found bulky and unsatisfactory to use. Manly men power was adopted for the better, whereby he is certain to get to his district court, slow but sure, time after time.



THIS DOG EARNS \$50 A MONTH.

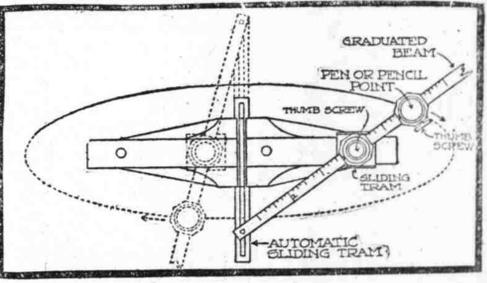


Here's a dog named Towser the Skunk, so called because he is black and white in color, like a skunk. He earns \$50 per month for his master by catching possums. He does not hunt rabbits or any other game, having no nose for anything but possums. He does not bark when on their trail; he runs silently and barks only when he has caught the 'possum on the ground and shaken it or has tamed it. He has caught as many as 15 in one day. Towser belongs to Jim Anderson, employed by Richard H. Smith, on his farm back of St. James, Long Island. The state pays 25 cents for every possum killed, and the Nissequogue Gun Club pays an additional 25 cents for every one killed on its game reserves, because 'possums eat quail eggs and otherwise injure the hunting. The skins are also worth something at the furriers'.

A DELIGHTFUL PRISON.

It is very doubtful if there is anywhere a more delightful prison than that of Tobel, in Switzerland. There are very few guards, not more than one to every 25 prisoners, and they never think of carrying arms. The prisoners' cells are constantly open, so that the inmates can easily communicate with each other and can tell at any time what the guards are doing. Moreover, the prisoners are allowed to have paper, ink, newspapers, elder and various dainties from the kitchen, including fried eggs, of which they are very fond. One would suppose that prisoners would not desire to leave such an idyllic paradise as this, yet three notorious murderers—Lohrer, Schmid and Hess—quietly stole away from it recently, and, it is said, have not as yet shown any inclination to return.

COMPASS DRAWS PERFECT OVAL.



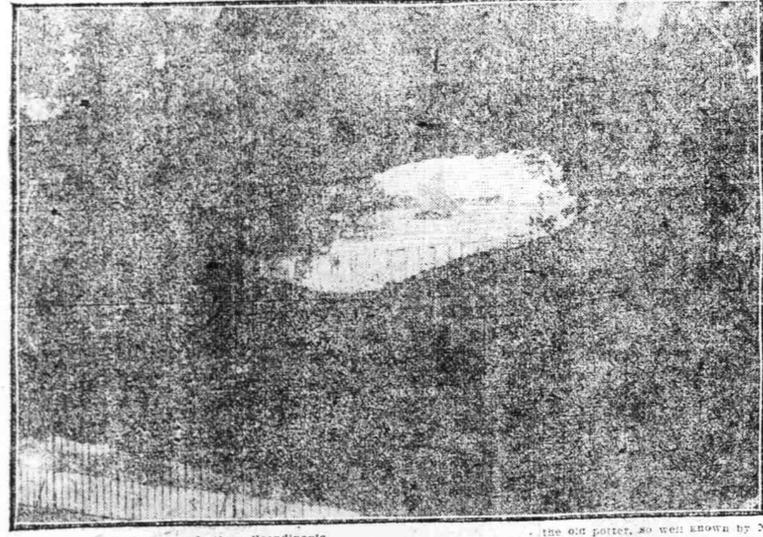
Artists, draughtsmen and photographers need no longer depend on a bit of string and two pins when they wish to draw an oval, for with the instrument just patented by a New York artist an oval is drawn as easily and quickly as a circle is made with a compass. Any proportion or size desired may be made, long or narrow, or almost round, the largest limited only by the length of the beam to which the drawing point is attached and the smallest by the length of the body of the instrument. The most important feature is the automatic sliding tram, running at right angles through the body of the instrument, always protruding on the opposite side to that of the drawing point, thereby preventing any interference and allowing great range of sizes and proportions. To operate the space on the paper to be occupied by the oval can be inserted to find the center, and the instrument placed in position. Notches at each end and side make it possible to determine this accurately. The drawing point is first set at a position shown on the graduated beam to be one-half the long diameter, the second point is set so that the distance between the notch on the block and that on the drawing point is equal to one-half the short diameter. Then grasp the knob of the drawing point and make the circumference of the oval. If one or more parallel lines are desired simply shift the drawing point, leaving the other in the same position. As either an ink or a pencil line can be drawn, a great deal of time and labor is saved and far better results obtained than by the old methods.

INDIAN MORTAR NOW A WASH BASIN.

It is nothing but a hollow stone, set in a retaining wall of Richard H. Smith's home on Long Island, near St. James. The house is more than 200 years old, and was built by the famous Bull Smith, who sought almost all of the center of Long Island from the Indians by riding around it on his bull, as agreed to by the Indians, just as Pennsylvania was purchased by William Penn—"for as far as a man can travel in one day." In this stone the Indians used to grind their cornmeal, coming for miles to do it. Afterward, when the Indians were gone, the slaves and servants of the house used it for a wash basin. It is so used even to this day, and it holds as much water as was a basin.



THIS TREE FRAMES A PICTURE.



This little gumpee of Deer Island, the Gulf of Mexico, the bathhouse, to say nothing of the little seaman that politely appeared at the right moment, is a view taken through the opening in the limbs of a grand giant oak standing on the illustrious coast, Mississippi. The stately old tree might have well been the mythological "world tree" had its roots been buried in Scandinavia. The aperture is not the result of a wound, but is perfectly natural and in a growing condition. It might appropriately be termed "nature's eye," steadily gazing seaward year in and year out through its gray moss eyelashes. Another interesting feature of Ellix is the oak potter, so well known by New Orleans people and many winter visitors. He makes his wares of native clay, many of them beautifully and curiously tinted and turned, showing the artistic touch of "the potter's thumb." The potter himself boasts of a huge mustache a foot and a half in length, which he wears wound round and around his ears.