TIN IN THE BLACK HILLS.

Great Work of the Miners and Their Certainty of Success.

ORE ASSAYING 126 POUNDS TO THE TON.

Effect of the McKinley Bill Upon the Tin Industry and the Competition of the Mines of Cornwall.

There is tin in South Dakota. This statement is supported by the judgment of experts based on assays of ore that showed wonderful richness. The development of the tin industry in the United States is slow but no less sure. The subject is attracting universal attention. No other city has a greater interest in it commercially than Omaha. Mr. William H. Alexander, collector of customs, in this city, has given the subject a great deal of attention, fully appreciating its importance in all respects. In the following paper, which he has been induced to contribute to THE BEE, he considers briefly the tariff laws affecting the tin industry, and then gives some startling facts about the vast deposits of tin ore in the Black Hills. Here is what he says:

I.

The time is near at hand—July 1—when the additional duty of 1 2-10 cents per pound, as provided in the McKinley bill, will be assessed upon imported tinned plates.

When the present tariff schedule was being considered in congress, and especially during the one month of its operation, prior to the last fall election, anti-tariff journals, writers and speakers in all parts of the country were moved with compassion for "the people," particularly for those of us whom they were pleased to denominate the working class, and prophesied all manner of evil as a direct result of the McKinley bill. Avoiding the fact that the new schedule contemplated and provided for more benefit to the people in the two items—free sugar and reciprocity—than would be required to offset the additional duties imposed upon all other commodities imported, they singled out certain paragraphs which appeared, on the surface, to be most burdensome, and threw the weight of argument upon them.

Perhaps no one item in the bill was more vigorously attacked than that part of paragraph 143, which increased the duty on tin and terne plates.

In the excitement of the campaign, when most people took the statements of their respective party informants for granted, the anti-protectionists created considerable capital out of the erroneous charge that the increase in duties on tin plate was an

Outrage Against the People

that would rob consumers of $6,000,000 in one year. Now however, when every intelligent person can reason it out at leisure, the great bug-bear disappears

It is found that an average family will buy from twenty to forty pounds of tinware in a year, and that the additional duty of one and two-tenth cents per pound, would only increase the annual expenditure from 25 to 50 cents, provided the consumer were asked to pay it, which in most cases he is not.

Upon fruit cans and other articles which enter quite largely into domestic use, the advance in cost varies from ⅛ of 1 cent to 2½ cents, each, and in ninety cases out of every hundred, has no effect whatever upon the retailer's price, the difference in cost being borne by the manufacturers and dealers. It is plain, therefore, that consumers, and by this term I mean those who finally bring the articles into use, are not likely to experience any noticeable burden by reason of the increase of duties. Indeed, I saw a large-sized cupola dinner pail in an Omaha store window this morning marked "20 cents," a lower price than I remember ever to have seen quoted before. And, I may add in this connection, that nearly all the additional duty contemplated by the McKinley bill on tinplates has already been applied, because English plate manufacturers, finding the demand increasing as July approaches, raised the price almost $1.00 per box above the figures quoted last year. It has been said by men who are now willing to admit

That Tinware Consumers

are not likely to be seriously affected by the new tariff, that it will certainly be felt on roofing tin, because plates are used in that form in greater single quantities by individuals, and yet a moment's thought will reveal the fact that this difference in cost would be but a small matter when compared with fluctuations in other building material not affected by tariff at all. Bricks, for instance, may be offered today for $10 per thousand and because of over-supply or slackness in building, may be quoted at $8, or even $6 before the season closes. On the other hand brickmakers may place their stock upon the market now at $7 per thousand and later on, by reason of an unexpectedly strong demand, it may be possible to raise the price to $9 or even $10 per thousand. Such instances are frequently met with, and are taken as legitimate fluctuations. But when congress, for the purpose of

Encouraging American Industries,

and the development of native resources, enacts legislation which may advance temporarily the price of an article, it is taken up by anti-protectionists and made the basis for unlimited attacks upon the one policy of all others in the history of our government that has brought American genius and American products to the front.

It has been almost universal, moreover, as an experience, that when prices were raised somewhat by increased tariff, the stimulus thus given to our own industries has ultimately brought them down again below any previous quotations. A wise people should be content to bear a temporary inconvenience which is certain to

Bring a Permanent Benefit.

One unfortunate circumstance usually attends an advance in tariff, no matter how slight, which helps to make it seem a burden, and that is the proneness of dealers and manufacturers to use the tariff as an excuse for marking up goods, and very much higher, too, than is justifiable. Not long ago, while standing in an out of town store, I heard a merchant say to a customer that the greatly increased price which he was endeavoring to secure for a quantity of goods was owing to the advance in tariff under the McKinley bill, and at the same time he expressed the hope that Mr. McKinley might be given a very warm room in the hereafter. The sale was made, and the customer

Absolutely Beaten Out

of $30, for the rate of tariff on the articles sold was not disturbed by the McKinley revision.

It is not my purpose, however, to discuss the operation, or effect, of the present tariff schedule, but to bring to light such information as has come to me concerning the inception, partial development and present condition of the tin industry in the United States.

Unpatriotic and un-American as it must appear to be, it is nevertheless a fact, that several of our prominent journals whose patronage and success can only be secure in the midst of industrial activity, are prompt to gather and magnify every adverse item that is obtainable to the manufacture of tin plates in this country, and, oftentimes, reports whose truth has not been substantiated are given wide circulation, when absolute facts which go to show the existence of mills in operation are reluctantly printed or laid aside. I can understand, after so many prophecies concerning the operation of the McKinley bill have

Been Proven False,

how anxious the prophets who make them must be as the time draws near when their pet forecast is to be tried, test it, too, be found wanting; and I cannot blame the prophets for endeavoring to maintain, in an upright position, this important pillar in their structure of calamities, which is already as far out of plumb as the tower of Pisa. But it would be more manly and much more in harmony with the spirit of our people, to rejoice in an evidence of progress and help it along, though it shatter a hobby and

Prove a Prophecy False.

There lies before me, at this moment, an editorial article from the Cleveland Plaindealer, based upon an adverse report of the Omaha board of trade committee, commmenting on the tin mines of Dakota, and as a sort of clincher to his own statements, the writer introduced this excerpt from a no less prominent journal in Philadelphia:

To protect this fairy tin in Dakota, the duty of $80 a ton was imposed by the McKinley tariff on foreign tin.

Any metropolitan newspaper can afford to be candid in its discussion of questions upon which its readers expect reliable information. The paragraph quoted should only be construed to mean that, when the McKinley bill went into effect, the duty on tin was fixed at 4 cents per pound for all time, unless amended. Yet such a conclusion would be far from correct. The exact terms of the new tariff schedule, so far as it relates to tin, are these:

Paragraph 143. Tin ore, cassiterites or block oxide of tin, and tin in bars, blocks, pigs or grain or granulated, until July 1, 1891, free.

Paragraph 209. Tin—On and after July 1, 1891, there shall be imposed and paid, upon cassiterite or black oxide of tin, and upon bar, block and pig tin, a duty of 4 cents per pound; provided, that unless it shall appear to the satisfaction of the president of the United States (who shall make known the fact by proclamation) that the product of the mines of the United States shall have exceeded five thousand tons of cassiterite and bar block and pig tin in any one year prior to July 1, 1895, then all cassiterite, bar, block and pig tin, shall after July 1, 1895, be admitted free of duty.

This changes the condition materially. For nearly three years tin is to be admitted free. Then, for two years, a duty equivalent to 20 per cent ad valorem is to be imposed in order to

Encourage the Mining of Ore

upon our own territory. Should it not be found in reasonably large quantities, by the end of that period, all duties will be removed.

When we consider the tremendous growth of our chief American industries under the protection of a heavy tariff, and then turn to the story of attempts to make tin plate manufacture a success, without protection, it must be a dyed-in-the wool free trader who would complain at the temporary duty of 4 cents per pound on tin; or two and one-fifth cents per pound on tinned and terne plates.

The New York Evening Post professes to be convinced that no ore is available in the United States, and it is utterly unable to discover the evidences of progress in plate manufacture which, to less blinded parties, are clearly in view. It was well understood that the industry could not be developed in this country, unless a higher tariff than has heretofore been levied on plates could be placed between those who should

Attempt Their Manufacture,

here, and the foreign corporations which have arbitrarily controlled both supply and price, since tin and articles made from tin, were first introduced in American markets. In 1864 a tariff of 2½ cents per pound was placed, or intended to be placed upon tin plates in order to protect the infant industry.

The secretary of the treasury's ruling, however, fixed the rate at 25 per cent ad valorem, owing to some uncertainty in the wording of the paragraph, and the little start that had then been made toward tin plate manufacture, was reluctantly abandoned. Years rolled by and the English manufacturer, becoming emboldened by the complete prostration of the industry here, gradually raised the price until it had reached the unwarranted and oppressive figure of $12 per box. Encouraged by this tremendous advance, some American mill owners set their works in motion and had begun to hope that something tangible would come of it, when lo! at the end of three years, or in 1876, the

Foreign Price Was Reduced

from a remunerative basis to $4.50 per box, and during that year the last American manufacturer shut down his mill. Congressman Burrows of Michigan, in a speech delivered in congress in 1890, made the further statement that in 1879, under the stimulus of a $10 price, to which the foreigner had then advanced his plates, several mills were started again in the United States, but were shortly afterward forced to suspend operations because London quotations were reduced to $4 per box. It is scarcely necessary to follow the earlier struggles of our home producers to establish an industry in this country, which, were the crushing force of the English monopoly stayed, would be easy to plant and of rapid growth.

It is believed, by men who have given the matter careful attention, that

Tin, in Limitless Quantities,

can be mined in the United States. It has been stated—and I hoped to have corroborative testimony from the collector of customs in that district in time for use in this letter—that tin is present in paying quantities in San Bernardino county, California, and that mining operations are now in progress. Later on it will be possible for me to confirm or discredit the reports. Many believe that the richest deposits are to be found in the Black Hills district, and I am able to furnish some reliable data concerning that region.

It has been pretty definitely determined that the available ore lies within an area of five or six hundred square miles, beginning in the vicinity of Custer and extending northward beyond Hill City, with an average width of fifteen or sixteen miles. There is scarcely an acre of surface within these limits that does not bear the stakes of a claim. The one central force and figure, however, is the Harney Peak tin mining company. This great corporation is in possession of claims almost without number, and has made the only effort at development worthy of notice. It is now believed that the earlier work performed and the heavy outlay of money by this company was practically thrown away. The plan of operations was to tunnel into the hills, under the impression that veins or lodes could be more easily discovered and with less expense than to work from the top with shafts. At all events the old line of procedure has been abandoned, and the work now in progress is concentrated upon

Five Promising Claims.

Two things have been demonstrated beyond question: 1. That richer ore or tin rock has been found near the surface in the hills than has ever been discovered before either in American or foreign mines. 2. That tin obtained from these rocks is finer in quality than the best that is mined in Wales. Indeed, Mr. Carnow, a Cornwall assayer, stated to me, that from present indications it would prove to be too fine unless mixed with a coarser quality. Having settled two of the three more important points in the problem, one yet remains to be determined, and that is the extent of deposits. It is repeatedly asked, "Why, if there is tin in these mountains in abundance, has it not been mined and smelted and brought into use?" A good many who seek an answer to this question are honest about it, and

Really Desire Information.

There are others, however, and it is strongly hinted that they are acting in the interest of foreign manufacturers whose motives may be questioned.

A New York paper contains, or did contain recently, a proposition to pay $10,000 for the first thousand pounds of tin from the Black Hill mines; but if the parties are as well posted as they profess to be, they clearly understand that up to this time the work done there has been of a preliminary character, and that until all essential points shall have been satisfactorily determined, the large outlay of money which the establishment of concentrators and other permanent improvements would necessitate, will not be made. It is safe to say, moreover, that when certain plans now maturing are carried out, the $10,000 proposition will disappear.

It may be stated here, that tin mining is of slow development. There is a certain amount of alluvial deposit, and probably considerable surface ore in the Black Hills, but there, as in Wales, the chief supply is likely to come from the tremendous rock upheavals. The Harney Peak company has spent a great many thousands of dollars in

The Purchase of Claims,

and in efforts to learn certainly, just what can be expected of the mines.

The Nevada No. 2, belonging to this company, is a mountain of granite, a veritable "everlasting hill." A promising vein in the midst of, and a ledge to one side, are the present evidences of value. The granite itself is 80 feet across at the top, and down through this monstrous upheaval, at the rate of perhaps one foot a day, the drillers are going in order to learn whether or not the lodes are continuous and rich enough to pay. It is hoped and indications are exceedingly favorable that the ledges and veins will ultimately come together and that the deeper the shaft is sunk the greater the deposit will be. I broke off a sample from one of the large pieces taken out of the Nevada shaft and took it to the Omaha smelting works for assay. The certificate from Mr. Barron, their principal assayer, says "9¼ per cent tin," or

125 Pounds to the Ton.

This is a very gratifying result. Tin can be mined and smelted profitably if the rock contains forty pounds to the ton. The principal mine at St. Agnes, according to an article upon tin in an English cyclopedia, does not produce more than eighty-four pounds of oxide to the ton, and much of the output has less than twenty pounds. It will be readily seen, therefore, that if the assay quoted from Mr. Barron is any criterion of the Nevada mine, it is unusually rich.

Another of the five claims upon which the Harney company is now at work, is called the "Cowboy." Owing to lack of time, I did not visit this mine, but in a long conversation with a gentleman now living in St. Louis, but who has spent the last four months in carefully examining every prominent feature of the Black Hills district, I was given to understand that this particular mine is one of

The Richest in Surface Indications

that has yet been discovered. At the Harney peak company's office, I saw a sample from the cowboy, which is said to be the second largest single concentrate, or chunk of oxide that any mine has produced. It weighs, I should say, from hefting it, thirty pounds, maybe more, and is about seventy-five per cent pure tin.

In company with the superintendent I visited the third in the series, designated on the maps as the "Addie" mine. The shaft is down already about three hundred feet into solid granite, and crosses a lode of ore rock which is apparently getting better and better, as the mining proceeds. It is the company's intention to continue the shaft downward at least seven hundred feet further, and this will require, even with three shifts of workmen, nearly a year and a half. It must be understood that only one set of drills can be conveniently worked at a time, and that the running of laterals along the course of the vein is almost equally tedious. The vein now being worked

In the Addie Mine

is nearly eight feet through. I went to the bottom of the shaft and could understand without being told that time is an essential factor in the development of tin mines. The absence of coke in the hills will probably prevent the establishment of smelters up there, but it is the intention of the Harney Peak company to erect works for separating the concentrates from the rock, one having a capacity of 250 tons per day being now under consideration. If the average percentage of oxide were sixty pounds to the ton, it would require a capacity of 750 tons for every working day in the year, to produce tin enough, after smelting, to meet the requirements of paragraph 209 in the McKinley bill. Very much of the talk about tin in Dakota has been furnished by men whose claims are small, and who are powerless to make any practical use of their possessions. As already hinted, it will probably take the Harney Peak mining company two years more, even if the happiest results are obtained from the operations now in progress to get the output upon a firm enough basis to warrant very extensive concentrating establishments, and it is only when some powerful organization with means at hand to push it, gets the mining under headway, so that these minor claims can be absorbed and utilized that very much can be done with them. I am firmly convinced that there is

An Abundance of Tin

in the Black Hills, and that before long it will become more evident to the people generally. Not many miles from Hill City, on the edge of the tin district, the Glendale Mining company began operations, and with the exception of one piece of machinery which will soon be supplied, it has a small concentrator ready for work. A gentleman is now east with a view of leasing the plant, and in a recent letter written to me from Chicago, some things are touched upon which it may be my pleasure to present more forcibly bye and bye. One thing in particular, in connection with the tin question, has impressed me very forcibly. If the mines in the Hills prove to be remunerative, and everything indicates it now,

Omaha is the Natural Base

of operations for the working up of their product. The smelting must be done where coke and other necessary facilities can be cheaply and easily secured. Two great lines of railways run directly from this city to the mining district. Rolling mills for the manufacture of steel and iron plates could be successfully worked here if steps could be taken to utilize the material within reach.

At Haitsville, Wyoming, thirteen miles east of Wendover, on the Union Pacific branch running north from Cheyenne, are iron deposits without limit. The hope that coke to be used in smelting could be gotten near by, at Newcastle, has faded away, and the natural center for the treating of the mass of ore, is Omaha. I am aware that, to bring about the possibilities which I have suggested, a very large capital would be required, and several years' time; but money can always be concentrated where there is opportunity for remunerative investment. If Omaha is to be a great city her people must

Grapple With Great Problems

and seek great avenues for development. There are gentlemen already engaged in Omaha's most highly prized industries who are capable of working out these problems, not at once, but in course of time, and it is to be hoped that sooner or later it may be accomplished.

Work has been in progress upon the Cornwall mines for centuries. Some of the shafts are down nearly 3,000 feet from the surface, and levels or cross galleries run under the sea for nearly a mile. It is said that the mines belonging to the Consolidated group, four in number, have levels and crosscuts aggregating sixty miles, and in some places the lodes are scarcely rich enough to pay for taking out; but these lean spots are counterbalanced by others of high percentage, making an average of paying ore.

With all these elaborate and long worked mining facilities the total production of tin in Wales last year was

Less than 10,000 Tons.

Careful reading of the history and development of the Cornwall mines will lead one to be patient with the men who are taking the chances of finding the paying veins in our own country, and it is hardly fair for those of us who have nothing at stake to condemn or misrepresent the accomplishments of the capitalists who have.

While journals with free trade sentiments and men who might learn differently if they would make an effort to do so, are declaring that there is no tin in the Black Hills, such reports as those now quoted are being made by experts, the first being from Prof. Claypool, Buchtel college, Ohio:

I have lately returned from Cornwall, and while there visited the large tin mines, which business was largely connected with my trip abroad; and now, after a thorough examination, I will say that the future of the Black Hills looks very encouraging. There is plenty of tin there and of good quality. All that is needed is plenty of capital to produce it.

After ten days' special investigation Attorney-General Kohler writes:

From what I know of the English mines, Great Britain has no tin deposits comparable with those in the Black Hills, in richness and extent. * * * The Harney Peak Mining company, backed by $3,000,000 capital, is developing the Black Hills mines on a magnificent scale.

A gentleman whose name I am not at liberty to give, but whose report is likely to take a startlingly tangible form, before long, said this to me only a week or two ago.

I have been in the mining regions of Wyoming and South Dakota, more or less, for the last thirty years and have carefully investigated every mining scheme and ore discovery that has come to light during that time. For my own satisfaction I went to the Black Hills four months ago, and have covered every claim in the whole tin district. For sixteen weeks it has been my occupation to learn all I could about the tin deposits, the extent of territory in which it abounds, and the operations now going on in the way of developing it, and I am satisfied that there is an unlimited quantity of the finest tin ever mined in this region. It will take time and lots of capital to get the mining of it well under way, but it is sure to come.

Since I began this article, a marked copy of the American Iron and Steel association's official journal has been received from Hon. James M. Swank, general manager of the association. I quote from it as follows:

Mr. W. C. Cronemeyer, chairman of the United States Iron and Tin Plate company (limited) under the date of April 20, 1891, received the following letter from the manager of the San Jacinto tin mines, San Bernardino county, Cal. "We are producing tin metal, but only in a limited way, with a five stamp mill, capable of working about 150 tons of ore per month, which produces from twelve and fifteen tons of metal. Our large mill, having a capacity of 200 tons per day, will not be finished before July 1." The letter expresses the hope that similar hopeful intelligence may be received. Here, then, are two localities, in which the most encouraging evidences of tin ore are present.

It is to be hoped that our manufacturers will yet be furnished with sufficient native metal to coat all the plates they may make, so that in every essential we shall be independent of other lands, but it is not a vital element in the development of the industry.

In my next paper I shall endeavor to present, from reliable data, what has already been accomplished by American manufacturers in this direction.

A Suggestion.

If you are troubled with rheumatism or a lame back, allow us to suggest that you try the following simple remedy: Take a piece of flannel the size of the two hands, saturate it with Chamberlain's Pain-Balm and bind it on over the seat of pain. It will produce a pleasant warmth and relieve you of all pain. Many severe cases have been cured in this way. The Pain-Balm can be obtained from all druggists.

THE MODERN CARRIER DOVE.

Annihilating Time in Transmitting the Country's Correspondence.

THE METHODS OF THE FAST MAIL.

The Number of Hands Through Which a Letter Must Pass From Omaha to New York.

There are about one hundred and eighty-five United States letter boxes in the city of Omaha. One of these is hung away out in Omaha Heights. It serves a neighborhood of several square miles. People from beyond the city limits deposit in it their letters for abroad. There are few missives found in it daily, because notwithstanding the extent of country it is supposed to accommodate there are comparatively few families there resident, and of these all of them do not hold voluminous correspondence with the outer world. Nevertheless, that lonely box is visited daily by the hardy mail carrier of that district. Sometimes he finds half a dozen missives, sometimes none. Wednesday he found one sweet-scented, flower-breathing envelope of octagon shape, which looked as if it had been made to order. It was addressed in a very regular feminine hand and bore the usual two-cent stamp and the large blue stamp which provides for special delivery.

Letter carriers may be sentimental when they don for the first time the livery of the office. But the sentimentalism dies out after the novelty of the life has worn away. A man who handles hundreds of loving epistles daily speculates no more as to their contents than the satisfied farmer does regarding the seed within his apples. He thinks more about the miles he has to travel, the sun from which he must be protected, the coal with which he must make his fireside glow in the winter and whether or not Mr. Wanamaker intends to raise his wages.

The letter carrier did not take time to examine the quaintly-housed letter. He buried it in his soiled bag, jumped in his sulky and sped to town as if pursued as was Tam O'Shanter.

This is what is known as the afternoon collection. But the streets were heavy. The carrier's horse couldn't travel and the poor fellow himself had to do the enormous work of his beast. He did it too, though he looked like a clay man, albeit he was a little behind time. When he reached the paved streets, however, the animal sped as if upon the homestretch. Mud flew from the wheels of the vehicle as if in an endeavor to make its flight the more rapid. The animals seemed impressed with the fact that he was in the employ of Uncle Sam. The letter carrier was anxious to deserve the good will of Mr. Wanamaker. With such concert of action, lost time was retrieved. The horse reached the postoffice about 2:30 o'clock, and there stood panting while the carrier, breathless, dashed into the main room and emptied his bag upon the largest table.

He was the first of Uncle Sam's men to handle those letters. He had done his work. He retired to the carriers' department, there to get his mail for the evening run over the same route.

Another employe (No. 2) picks up the letters in one's and three's and fives, twists them this way and that, seemingly without looking at them. In a few minutes the indiscriminate jumble has been metamorphosed into long lines or envelopes, standing on edge, with the stamped corners following in succession like the governing numeral on the upper right hand corner of a bank bill.

Then No. 3 takes hold. He is the canceller. In his right hand is the cancelling stamp. The left hand skilfully draws the letters one by one, toward him. As each stamp appears, down upon it drops the inked iron and the stamp has been destroyed. The destruction continues more rapidly than fall the leaves in autumn.

Then the letters go to the "stater" No. 4. He takes a pack in one hand and from it tosses into pigeon holes in front one after another of the opisties. His rapidity is marvellous. The boxes represent sometimes a state, sometimes a large city. Sometimes they represent a section of country the mail of which is made up in the railway postal car by the clerks as the train passes through it. The octagonal letter catches his eye. He glances at it for a moment and then shoots it into an opening already three-quarters full. The box is labelled New York city. In a few minutes it becomes full. Out comes all the letters and in an instant they are pressed and tied. Pack after pack is twined and the clerk attaches the facing-slip of brown manilla paper which contains the latter's name and the destination of the mail.

Then comes (No. 5) an expert juggler with packages, who buries them in strong pouches and locks the openings. He hustles them to the rear entrance, where the messenger (No. 6) who controls the heavy, highly-colored mail van seizes them with fingers of steel and projects them into the interior darkness of the vehicle.

It is now 3:15 p. m. and the messenger has thirty minutes in which to reach the depot. The horses set out at a gallop. At the depot they thunder down the incline. The pouches are dragged from the cavern. The transfer clerk (No. 7) yanks them upon his truck and, staggering under the load, wheels them to the dummy yclept the "Irish mail." This is bound for the Bluffs. The engine is ready to shoot out at a second's notice.

Into the car go the sombre pouches, where the company's baggageman (No. 8) mounts guard over them. The door is closed. It is now 4:15 o'clock p. m. Precisely at 4:35 the Irish mail, out of breath stops at the depot in Council Bluffs.

Onto the truck of another depot transfer man (No. 9) are thrown the mail bags. He, too, staggers as he pushes the load to the fast mail train, the white cars of which stand upon the Burlington track, while the engine puffs impatiently to be out upon the road.

Once more, the sacks disappear, the railway postal clerk (No. 10) pulling them in as if so many human beings upon the track of a runaway locomotive.

The door is closed. It is 4:50 p. m. That speeding train thinks of nothing, if it thinks at all, save of the precious load it bears and its duty almost to annihilate time.

The octagonal letter is in the New York City pack tied up in the New York state pouch. The latter lies undisturbed in a corner. The letters within it, so to speak, are asleep. So is the little maiden way out in Omaha Heights. She dreams of the father in New York City to whom she has addressed the note, and speculates as to what he will say when he learns through it that his clerk Ed has proposed to her and that she wants papa's consent to the marriage; and further, what he will say when he sees the special delivery stamp and reads the request for an answer by telegraph—all of which denotes that Ed stands very high—at least in the estimation of the young woman.

In her simplicity, she rises in the morning at just 7 o'clock and hopes that "that letter may get away sometime today." But she does not know that three minutes before she awoke, or rather at 6:57 o'clock a. m., that same little octagonal letter had reached the great Burlington depot in Chicago, fourteen hours and seven minutes after it had been trained in Omaha!

From the train the New York pouch is again taken by a messenger (No. 11) and hidden in deep wagons, which lumber over the paved streets to the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern depot, half a mile away.

Here another depot transfer clerk (No. 12) loads a truck and rushes with it to the train. The New York pouch is now only 1,000 miles away from its destination and is being stowed away by a railway mail clerk (No. 13) to be attended to later.

The last run has been entered upon and the train fairly flies past towns, villages and district cities of metropolitan importance, Elkhart, Toledo, Cleveland, Erie, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany.

All the large cities having been passed, the little octagonal letter has now thousands of companions. These the industrious subordinates of Mr. Wanamaker are separating into district packages. Some of them are pitched into a pigeon-hole for this sub-station, another for that. Thousands of them are to go to the main postoffice, while those with special delivery stamps are honored with a box of their own. Into this compartment goes the little octagonal letter, just as white and dainty as if it had never seen the mud-splashed bag of the hard-worked suburban carrier way out in Omaha.

In a brief space of time it passes through the three clerks (Nos. 13 to 15) sent out from New York to relieve the regular men on the train. All of these hard-working, intelligent men—men who work in the face of danger from which they sometimes cannot escape, discharge their duties with wonderful rapidity and accuracy. So much so that when the train comes to a stand in the depot in the great city of crime and wretchedness they have donned their outer garments and eagerly inhale the freshness of the open air. It is now 10:35 a. m. o'clock, or forty-two hours later than when the letter left Omaha.

The little letter now passes into the hands of another messenger, (No. 16) who with his wagon is waiting for it. He dumps the pouch on the postoffice platform and an employe (No. 17) dumps the contents on the table. Another employe (No. 18) cuts the binding cords; another, (No. 19) the straightener, arranges them to be marked with the receiving stamp. They are then stamped by this clerk (No. 20) and are carried by an attendant (No. 21) to the distributor (No. 22) who apportions them among the carriers.

The little octagonal, however, bears the special delivery stamp and goes immediately to a clerk (No. 23) who has special charge of letters so marked. The letter is entered and given to a messenger (No. 24), who, in ten minutes after he received it, delivers it into the hands of "Mr. Henry Adams, Astor house, New York," the journey being made forty hours and ten minutes.

Now, Mr. Henry Adams is a practical man. He recognizes his daughter's handwriting. He cannot understand the urgency which suggests the special delivery. He opens the letter and reads:

OMAHA, Neb., May 18.—My Dear Papa: Ed has proposed and I have accepted him. Won't you please give us your consent? He said you told him you were going to take him into partnership. Mamma is happy. Please telegraph.

CLARA.

The father telegraphs, and in less than an hour the telegram is delivered, forty-one hours after Clara had written her letter, and about forty hours earlier than she expected an answer!

It was lover's night in that residence that night and both the young folks blessed the mail service, the hardy men engaged in it and the great man who is at the head of it.

SYRUP of FIGS

ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and $1 bottles by all leading drug gists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
LOUISVILLE, KY. NEW YORK, N.Y

SYPHILIS A Written Guarantee to CURE EVERY CASE or MONEY REFUNDED.

Our cure is permanent and not a patching up. Cases treated five years ago have never seen a symptom since. By describing case fully we can treat you by mail, and we give the same strong guarantee to cure or refund all money. Those who prefer to come here for treatment can do so and we will pay railroad fare both ways and hotel bills while here if we fail to cure. We challenge the world for a case that our MAGIC REMEDY will not cure. Write for full particulars and get the evidence. We know that you are skeptical, justly so, too, as the most eminent physicians have never been able to give more than temporary relief. In our five years' practice with the MAGIC REMEDY it has been most difficult to overcome the prejudices against all so-called specifics. But under our strong guarantee you should not hesitate to try this remedy. You take no chance of losing your money. We guarantee to cure or refund every dollar, and as we have a reputation to protect, also financial backing of $250,000, it is perfectly safe to all who will try the treatment. Heretofore you have been putting in and paying out your money for different treatments and although you are not yet cured no one has paid back your money. Do not waste any more money until you try us. Old chronic, deep seated cases cured in 30 to 90 days. Investigate our financial standing, our reputation as business men. Write us for names and addresses of those we have cured who have given permission to refer to them. It costs you only postage to do this; it will save you a world of suffering from mental strain, and if you are married what may your offspring suffer through your own negligence. If your symptoms are sore throat, mucous patches in mouth, rheumatism in bones and joints, hair falling out, eruptions on any part of the body, feeling of general depression, pains in head or bones, you have no time to waste. Those who are constantly taking mercury and potash should discontinue it. Constant use of these drugs will surely bring sores and eating ulcers in the end. Don't fail to write. All correspondence sent sealed in plain envelopes. We invite the most rigid investigation and will do all in our power to aid you in it. Address, COOK REMEDY CO., Omaha, Nebraska. Office 13th and Farnam, second floor, entrance 13th st.

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The first dose often astonishes the invalid, giving elasticity of mind, buoyancy of body, GOOD DIGESTION, regular bowels and solid flesh. Price, 25c.

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We have a little surprise in store for you today. It is in our children's department. In the rush and heat of our many efforts we somewhat neglected the little and big boys. Now then, for one week, we will give a straight 20 per cent discount in the entire department, including waists, single pants and boys' and children's suits.

That we Can't be

making a cent by this tremendous offer, you can readily see for yourself. It is simply a question with us of reducing an overstocked department. There will be no danger of our being

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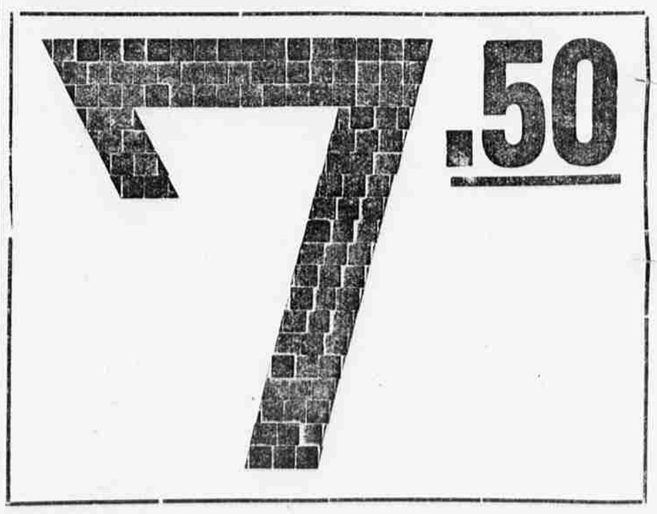
as our prices, as they stand on our goods, even without the discount, are the lowest mentioned in the city. We have concluded to continue our



sale a few days longer. It has proven the greatest card for our business and it is verbal advertising that is telling. It

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