INDUSTRY AND MECHANICS

NAILING MACHINE IS HANDY

Obviates Necessity of Holding Nails in the Mouth and Prevents Bruised Fingers.

This machine, which is specially designed for nailing shingles, relieves a workman from practically all trouble except that of hitting the nail on the head and of moving the machine into the next position. The nails are dumped into the hopper, in the bottom of which are three parallel slits. The vibration of the machine in use causes the nails to drop point downwards into the slits and hang by their heads. Thence they pass into a similar slit in

An Improved Nailing Machine.

the incline, and slide, still hanging by their heads, down to the catch spring. This spring holds the nail under the plunger which sets the nail in the material.

The machine can be used with the hands protected by gloves or mittens, and it obviates the necessity of holding nails in the mouth, and prevents bruised fingers.

WEIGHING SCOOP SAVES TIME

Grocer Can See at Glance the Weight of Tea or Sugar Without Resorting to Scales.

A weighing scoop that is scoop and scales in one has been designed by a Philadelphia man. At a glance the grocer can see the weight of the sugar or tea or whatever he may have in the scoop without resorting to the scales and losing that much time. The handle of the implement has a downwardly projecting arm running parallel to the back of the scoop, which is hinged to the bottom of this arm and fastened by a spring to the upper portion. A tape with weight divisions on it con-

A Weighing Scoop.

nects the handle and the scoop, and when the latter has anything in it the tape will be drawn out to the point which indicates the weight of its contents. With an implement of this kind the grocer can go ahead and fill bags by simply dipping the goods out of a bin and consulting the tape, instead of first shoveling into the scales scoop and juggling with a set of weights.

INCREASED USE OF CEMENT

More Used in the Year 1909 Than in Any Other in History—Also Price Was Lower.

More cement was used in the United States in 1909 than in any other one year in its history, and the price by the barrel was lower. In 1908 the production was 52,910,925 barrels, valued at $44,547,679; in 1909 the production was 64,196,336 barrels, worth $51,232,075 at the mills. In 1908 the average price of a barrel of Portland cement was 85 cents; in 1909 the price averaged 81 cents produced at 103 plants in the country. Twenty-one plants were in Pennsylvania, twelve in Michigan, ten in Kansas, eight in Ohio, seven in New York, six in Indiana, five in Illinois and five in California.

In 1880 a barrel of Portland cement brought three dollars, due to the scarcity of the material whose production devolved upon slow, crude processes. Today it is manufactured to sell at 80 cents a barrel and show a profit. Most of the cement produced is consumed in the United States, the export product ranging from one to three per cent. annually. With the immense natural resources for its manufacture, however, it is anticipated by government authorities that in the near future the foreign trade in cements will show large in the sum of the nation's export trade.

Sanitary Paper Comb.

The paper comb is a novelty which has made its appearance. It is made of smooth finished, hard cardboard. The teeth are coarse and far apart, but it is quite useful for combing the hair. The paper comb is one to be used once and then thrown away. It is designed for travelers and for use in public baths, and in various other places where now might be found combs kept for common use; in such places these combs might be furnished by the establishment free. It is not costly, the paper comb, put up in a waxed paper holder, being sold at retail at one cent.

Depths of the Sea.

The greatest ocean depth recorded is at Nero Deep, in the north Pacific—6,269 fathoms.

WAY OF DOCTORING MASONRY

Germans Adopt Method That Entirely Obviates Necessity of Tearing Down Cracked Walls.

Ingenious Germans of Hamburg recently have adopted a method of doctoring masonry that entirely obviates the necessity of tearing down cracked and decaying walls.

In the city of Hamburg two crumbling railway bridges were used in the experiments. They were 51 feet in the arch spans, and cracks had appeared everywhere, so that the structures barely hung together. Holes were bored through the masonry to get to the depths of the cracks and a watery cement mortar was pumped in under a pressure of five atmospheres until all the crevices were filled. When this had hardened it was found that the bridges were as firm under all tests as new masonry, and were not even disfigured by the process.

To the antiquary as well as the practical engineer, this should appear as a boon, for ancient stone structures with historical associations, which become dangerously weak can be given a renewed youth without rebuilding or destroying any of the marks of venerable age. In this country more bridges and other stone structures are torn away because they no longer accommodate their needs, than because they are outworn, but there may come a time in America when we shall have occasion to do a little patching, and the German methods will serve excellently.

PUTTY KNIFE IS IMPROVED

Scraper Attachment Leaves Blade Free for Spreading—Advantage Over Old Style.

Painters and glaziers will find a great convenience in the improved putty knife designed by a New York man. The invention is a small one

Improved Putty Knife.

and the need it fills could scarcely be called a crying one, but it has distinct advantages over the old-style knife. The new knife has a slot running across it near the end and in the slot a scraper blade is pivoted on a hinge. When not in use the scraper lies flat along the knife blade, but it can be opened to abut the blade at right angles. The putty is placed on the end of the knife and, with the thumb pressed against it, is laid along the edge of a window frame, or wherever it is to go, as in the old method. In scraping off the superfluous putty, however, it is not necessary to remove that from the knife blade and use the edge of this blade, as was formerly the case. The scraper attachment on the new type does this work even more effectively and the end of the knife is kept clean.

Cement Industry Abroad.

In Bohemia, portland cement wholesales at $8.93 per metric ton of 2,204 pounds, while in France it sells at $4.44 to $5.79, according to recent consular advices. The cement industry is enormous in Germany and generally speaking the cost of manufacture is placed at about 28½ cents per barrel, exclusive of coal and packing. Contractors pay $6.66 and $9.79 per metric ton. Owing to increasing consumption the price in England has advanced in recent years, now being about $9 per ton.

Age of Fish.

Until within recent years there had been ascertained no trustworthy way of finding out the age of fish. It has been shown that mere size does not indicate the age. Reibisch, Heincke and others have discovered that many of the bones, scales and otoliths of fishes have annual age rings, resembling those in tree trunks.

INDUSTRIAL AND MECHANICAL NOTES

The cotton industry of England employs many more women than men.

Artificial wood for matches, made from straw, has been invented by a Frenchman.

The Amsterdam diamond trade is in the hands of ten firms employing ten thousand workhmen.

A species of stiff grass which grows abundantly in that country is used for match sticks in India.

The value of the Rand gold industry to South Africa is estimated at half a million dollars a day.

A room will look both larger and higher by the use of wall paper containing designs in vertical lines.

Rubber boots are now made with a leather inner heel which greatly increases the boot's period of usefulness.

In Austria, where the production of kerosene is a great industry, a large government refinery is under contemplation.

The manufacture of wood pulp paper involves 28 separate operations from cutting down the trees to sewing the product.

Nova Scotia claims to have the largest gypsum deposits in the world. They vary from a few feet to hundreds of feet in thickness.

Virginia's coal production is steadily increasing, the state's output of 6,507,997 short tons last year being far ahead of any previous record.

NEW NEWS of YESTERDAY

By E. J. EDWARDS

First Time She Really Sang

Parepa-Rosa in Gilmore's Peace Jubilee Was Heard Above the Cannon, Organ, and Great Orchestra Chorus of Ten Thousand.

Recently I told in the words of the late Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore, the greatest bandmaster this country has ever produced, the story of the romantic courtship of a great prima donna of the sixties and the early seventies, Parepa-Rosa, and Carl Rosa, who, at the height of Parepa's fame as a grand opera singer, was looked upon as one of Europe's great violinists. Today I tell in Mr. Gilmore's own words the story of the manner in which he secured Parepa-Rosa as the soloist for his National Peace Jubilee of 1869, which was held in Boston, and which was one of the great musical festivals that won for Gilmore international fame as a bandmaster.

"I began to lay plans for the peace jubilee a year or two after the close of the Civil war," said Mr. Gilmore, whose band, during the war, was the most famous of all the musical organizations on the Union side. "At first I had just a vague idea of a celebration in song and music of the restoration of peace in the United States. But the more I though of the idea, the more it expanded, and at last—having in the meantime received every encouragement from my Boston friends and obtained financial guarantees against loss from some of the merchants of that city—I decided to get together an orchestra of one thousand pieces and a chorus of ten thousand voices. I soon found that all of the musical societies of the United States, at least of the larger cities, were only too glad to co-operate with me. Then, to give the jubilee a decided novelty, I worked out a plan for using artillery as a part of the orchestral accompaniment, the cannon to be placed outside of the Coliseum and to be discharged by electricity exactly as the organist would touch a particular note upon the organ's keyboard when he wanted a special effect.

"Well, do you know that all the while I was planning for these large effects it never occurred to me that I had forgotten that I ought to have a soloist who had a voice powerful enough to be heard above the salvos of the cannon, the organ, the great orchestra and the great chorus. When I did think of it my plans were far advanced and I was in grave anxiety least I should be unable to secure a soloist. But one evening, as I sat listening to Parepa-Rosa singing an aria from Meyerbeer's opera of 'Robert the Devil,' the thought suddenly came to me: 'There's your soloist. That woman has a voice that would soar above any combination of voices and instruments, no matter how many.'

"So I sought out Parepa-Rosa and told her what my plans were—that they called for a great dramatic soprano whose voice would soar above a chorus of ten thousand and an orchestra of one thousand. She replied that she had never yet had an opportunity to let her voice out to its full capacity, that she believed a chorus of even ten thousand voices could not drown her own.

"'But,' said I, 'I am to have twenty cannon placed and discharged by electricity as an accompaniment to the orchestra.'

"'Oh,' she said, delighted, 'that would be like singing on a battlefield.' And she added: 'Mr. Gilmore, I will sing for you as your soloist if you will promise me one thing—your musicians must discharge the cannon on the beat of time. If they do that I will make my voice heard above the cannon. But if they come in out of time then all is ruined.'

"I was bold enough to make the promise, and at the first day's performance I escorted Parepa to the center of the stage. There were thirty thousand people there. She stood before them smiling, awaiting the introduction by the orchestra and then the chorus. At the exact moment she began. Her voice was like a melody from the heavens. Her song rose pure, clear and exquisite above all that vast combination of sounds. No other thing did the vast audience pay heed to—it was the song of that woman, triumphant over that vast combination of instruments and voices and cannon, that taught them what the human voice is capable of. And when it was all over and Parepa had retired to tumultuous applause she told me that for the first time in her entire life had she ever really sung."

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Be a Manly Man.

Take life like a man. Take it as though it was—as it is—an earnest, vital, essential affair. Take it just as though you were born to the task of performing a merry part of it—as though the world had waited your coming. Take it as though it were a great opportunity to achieve, to carry forward great and good schemes to hold and to cheer a suffering, weary, it may be broken hearted brother.—Charles H. Spurgeon.

Echo of Old Naval Sensation

"Retribution" That Overcame Alexander Mackenzie for Hanging Three Mutinous Apprentices, One of the Secretary of War's Son.

Some ten or twelve years ago I was the guest at the country home near Tarrytown, N. Y., of the late C. C. Clarke, then vice-president of the New York Central railway system and for many years the right hand of Commodore Vanderbilt and his son, William H., in the financial administration of that system. Mr. Clarke was anxious to show me some of the historic spots in Tarrytown and in its vicinity and especially Sleepy Hollow, still redolent with the traditions of Washington Irving, and also to point out to me the spot where the three pickets of the Revolutionary army had captured Major Andre. As we were riding along the highway not far from the point upon the side of it where the monument erected and commemorated to the capture of Andre stands, Mr. Clarke suddenly told the driver to rein in the horses to a walk.

"It was about there," he said, pointing, "that Alexander Slidell was killed. I presume, however, that you do not know him by that name, yet he was a brother of John Slidell, who was a member of the United States senate, representing Louisiana, and who was one of the two commissioners of the Confederate government who were taken from the British mail steamer Trent by Captain Wilkes at the beginning of the Civil war, an action which almost brought about war between England and the United States.

"Alexander Slidell, better known as Alexander Mackenzie, was the cause of one of the most sensational incidents in the history of the United States," Mr. Clarke continued. "The name of Mackenzie he legally assumed. It was his mother's maiden name, and it is my recollection that he assumed it at the request of one of her near relatives, an uncle. It may be that a promise of inheritance caused him to make this change in surnames. At any rate, he was an officer in the United States navy, and in 1842 was in command of the brig-of-war Somers.

"Upon that brig were a large number of apprentices; they practically constituted the crew. One of them was a son of John C. Spencer, who was at that time secretary of war in the cabinet of President Tyler.

"When the Somers was in midocean, returning from the African coast, Commander Mackenzie heard that a mutiny was brewing. He instantly investigated and had three of the apprentices arrested as ring leaders of the alleged conspiracy and court-martialed on the deck. They were found guilty and were hanged from the yardarm. One of them was the son of the secretary of war.

"I remember well what a tremendous sensation the news of the execution created; I was then 20 years of age. Mackenzie was himself court-martialed, but it was found that he had acted strictly in accordance with the rules, and he therefore could not be convicted. But if he was acquitted by court-martial, he must have suffered agonies, in view of the fact that the American people almost to a man turned their faces against him. He was told publicly and privately that there would be awful retribution for him.

"About four years later, during the Mexican war—in which Mackenzie took part on land, by the way—came the report that the brig Somers had sunk in midocean with the loss of a large part of its crew, and in public and private it was said that retribution for the hanging of a mere boy was begun. Two years elapsed and then one day—about six years after the hanging of young Spencer—Mackenzie, who had retired to Tarrytown, was out riding horseback along this road; that was his only recreation. Suddenly the horse shied—no one could tell at what—and threw Mackenzie over his head. They lifted him from the ground a few moments later; his neck was broken. And once again it was said by the superstitious: 'Retribution for the hanging of young Spencer—the final retribution.'"

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Off the List.

"After a man has invested in one of your get-rich-quick schemes do you keep on sending him literature for your new enterprises?"

"Certainly not," answered the promoter. "What's the use of wasting postage stamps on a man who is broke?"

Confusion of Names and Fame

When E. P. Roe Produced "Barriers Burned Away," the Admirers of A. S. Roe Rejoiced That He Had Resumed Writing.

The name of E. P. Roe and many of the novels that bear it are still remembered by the world at large; but how many readers of today are there who would have their memories stirred by the mention of the name of A. S. Roe? Yet, in his day, A. S. Roe was as popular a writer of fiction as E. P. Roe was in his, and thereby hangs a tale of confusion of names and reputation and coincidences.

A. S. Roe and E. P. Roe each became a writer of fiction by chance, as it were. Until E. P. Roe wrote for a friend, the editor of a religious paper, the serial called "Barriers Burned Away," he had not the slightest idea that he had any gift for fiction writing. A. S. Roe started out in life a marchant; he lost his fortune, gained in trade, through his too great generosity in endorsing the notes of his friends. Having nothing else to do he thought he would write a story. His first novel, published in the early fifties, bore the title, "I've Been Thinking," and it had an enormous circulation, at least for that time. It was, properly speaking, in modern book terms, a "best seller."

Year after year, following this first pronounced success, A. S. Roe published novels, and each was widely read; it was a "best seller." He stopped writing about the year 1869, and great was the regret among his following. But some three years later many of the novelist's admirers could be heard saying delightedly that he had taken up writing novels again, and then they would tell how much they enjoyed reading his latest book, "Barriers Burned Away." They were, indeed, so glad that A. S. Roe resumed writing fiction, and they hoped he would keep on; and it was freely told about by A. S. Roe enthusiasts how their favorite author had been inspired to return to the field of fiction with his new novel by something he had seen while on a visit to Chicago shortly after the great fire of 1871. Indeed, even after E. P. Roe—who, following his unexpected success, produced successful novels regularly year after year, as A. S. Roe had done before him—had written several immensely popular books, the confusion of names and reputations still persisted.

But there were other coincidences in the careers of these two men besides those of name and rapidity of production. A. S. Roe cultivated a little farm in Connecticut not far from Hartford, the state capital, and he turned to it for recreation between novels. E. P. Roe, after his first novel had revealed his real genius, took up fruit culture on a small farm at Cornell, N. Y., near West Point, he having been the pastor of a Presbyterian church not far from the Point when he took up experimental novel writing.

Moreover, the novels of A. S. Roe were almost as popular in England as they were in this country. So, too, when E. P. Roe began to write, his novels speedily gained a great hold on the British reading public. And for many years the prevailing impression in many an Englishman's mind was that the novels of A. S. Roe and those by E. P. Roe were the work of one and the same man.

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The Three Beers.

"Oscar Hammerstein," said an actress on the Cunard pier in New York, "entertained me at tea last week in his new operahouse office in London.

"The operahouse is in Kingsway. It's a wonderful place, all but the statues on the top. They're hideous, but, being heavily draped, they will be sure to please the Londoners.

"Mr. Hammerstein at tea talked about his successes and his failures—his eighty successes as an inventor of cigar-making machinery, and his 800 successes in opera.

"Then he mentioned his tremendous failure with his first operahouse fifteen years ago—how he devoted it to opera and ballet and it wouldn't go; how he then turned it into a theater, with Mrs. Bernard Beere as his star, and it still wouldn't go; and how at last he turned it into a music hall and made a fortune.

"'Yes,' said Mr. Hammerstein, with a chuckle, 'that was the record of that place—first, Meyerbeer; then Bernard Beere, then lager beer.'"

Mecca Most Popular City

Town Located in the Wilderness of Arabia is Visited by One-Seventh of Human Race.

Although one of the most inaccessible cities on earth, Mecca each year has visitors in such number that it must be ranked in this particular with London and New York. Even the world's metropolis on the Thames can boast of no such cosmopolitan character as is imparted to this mysterious city in the wilderness of Arabia by the myriads of pilgrims who, at the cost of incredible pains, annually crowd into its confines. This city is the oldest place of resort in existence, yet of all the millions who have visited it not a score of Christians are known to have come out alive. No flag of citizenship would save a man's life were he known to be a Christian within the sacred precincts of the city where the prophet himself decreed that no unbeliever should set foot.

Of the 235,000,000 Moslems in the world, only 15,500,000 live under the Turkish flag, yet most of them acknowledge the sultan of Turkey as their caliph, the successor of the prophet. As Mohammed shrewdly foresaw, the Mecca pilgrimage binds together his disciples into a unity which could be effected in no other way. "Mecca," says Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer of Arabia, "has become the religious capital and the center of universal pilgrimage for one-seventh of the human race."—Harper's.

The Real Thing.

A Harvard professor rises to remark that "syncopation in harmonization has no immoral connotation."

Which, being roughly translated into idiotic English, means: "Rag time is de pure goods."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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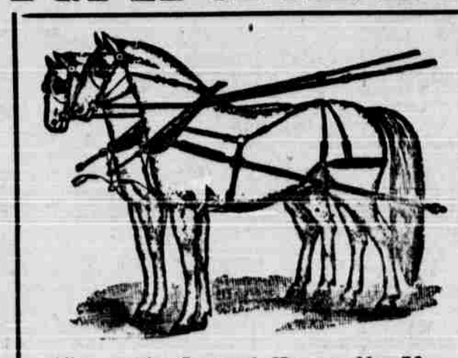

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