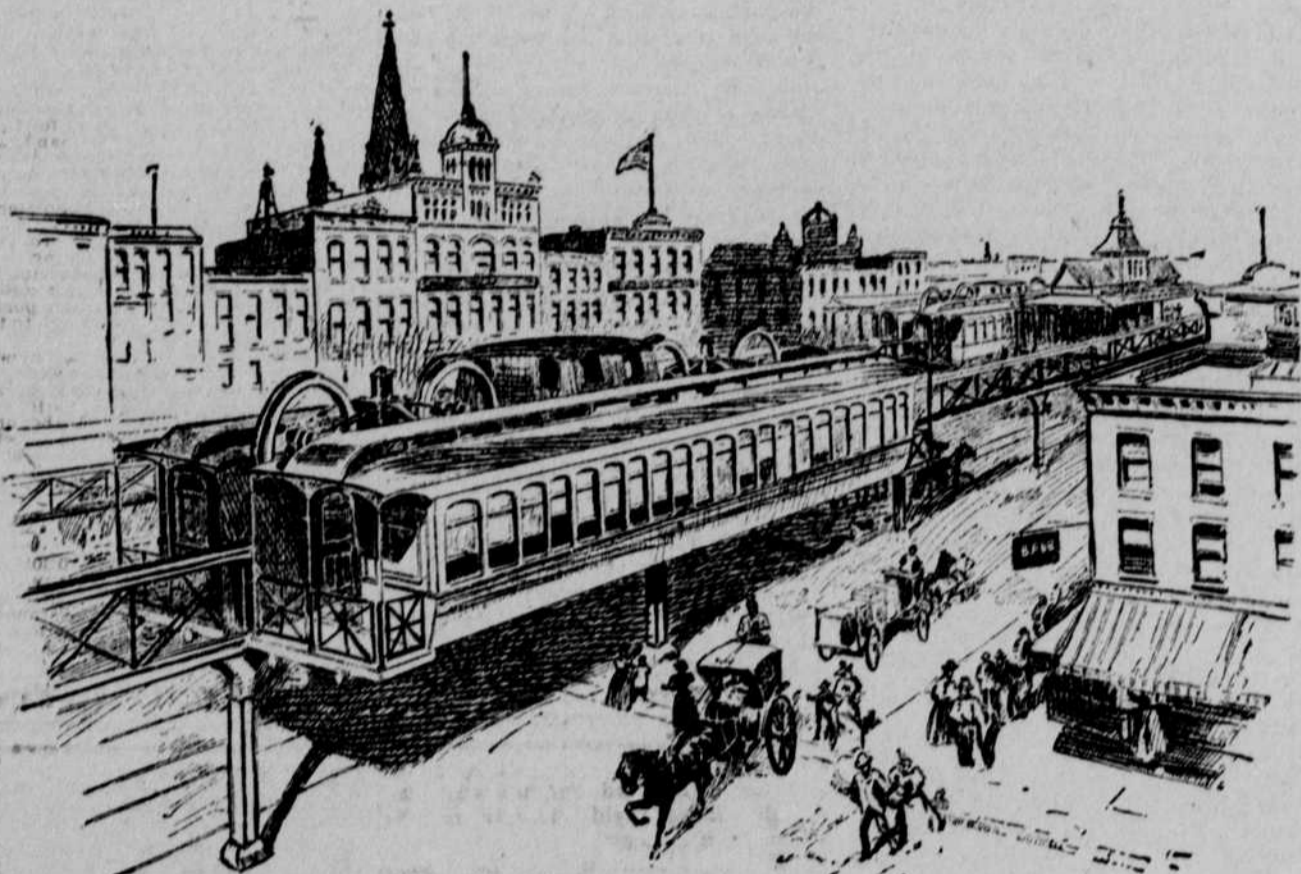


## A ONE-RAIL RAPID TRANSIT ROAD.

A railroad system that on a single rail with single cars, combining engine, passenger coach and baggage carrier, will travel with the swiftness of the wind, is the curious invention of a man in Wyoming. It is no mere theory planned on paper simply to create wonder and be of no practical use. William T. Shaffer has patented his idea and has a model road in full working order near his home. This very unique railway is designed to carry passengers, mail and express matter between populous points, particularly in crowded cities, taking the place of the present elevated railroad and attaining a speed heretofore unequalled by any railway train.



The car is used on a single rail, elevated upon posts, which are connected near their tops by beams, or stringers, and are braced with truss rods. On each side of this row of posts is placed a guide rail, the bearing surface of which is placed at right angles with the face of the top rail.

For passengers the car has one row of double seats next to the windows, and the aisle, or passageway, is next to the inner wall. The car is practically two cars, one of which travels on either side of the rail. They are joined by a bridge, or cupola, at the center. The trucks, with two wheels each, are placed one before the other behind the bridge. These main carry-

ing wheels are double-flanged, the space between the flanges being somewhat wider than the face of the rail. Underneath the car on each side are two guide wheels, which stand at right angles with the upper wheels and run upon the two lower guide rails, the purpose being to steady the side motion of the car. These guide wheels press firmly upon their respective rails, but are provided with short, strong springs in their boxes, so as to allow them to yield slightly in rounding curves. In this device the horizontal wheels underneath the body of the car, running on the guide rails, carry the load around a curve with scarcely any friction except that of

fastened to yokes, and they ride all the time a short distance above the rail. In case of any settling the shoe would contact with the rail, and, in addition to supporting the car in its proper position, would serve as an automatic brake to "slow up" the motion of the car. Electricity is the motive power of this single track car, the rotary engine and motor being just above the single rail and between the two sides of the car. The wheels of this combination car can be made three times as large as the ordinary engine wheels, and consequently the same number of revolutions which carry the present engine at the rate of fifty miles an hour will carry this car 150 miles an hour.

smooth, oiled journals. If it should be found that head winds prevent a high rate of speed the square end of the car can be narrowed to a point, so as to afford as little wind resistance as possible. The axles are all short, the longest not exceeding twenty-four inches in length. The sweep of a large wheel does not pound any uneven place on the rail with that force that a small wheel does, and, as it covers a broader space, is not so apt to break a frosty rail. In case a wheel or axle should break, which would have a tendency to let the cars fall, there are arranged a series of shoes, grooved on the inner side, to center on the rails. These shoes are

Steam power can be used on roads of this description if it is desired, but it is especially designed for electricity as a motive power. In cities it is proposed to elevate the road to a sufficient height to clear all vehicles and leave a free roadway beneath. In the country, however, it will only be necessary to elevate the road to a sufficient height to clear the ground, and at crossings, where the elevation can be made sufficient to allow teams to pass beneath the rail. The first cost of such a road will be somewhat greater than the ordinary road, but the inventor says it will be cheaper in the end, as there will be no constant repairs for roadbed or keeping the track clear.

### WHY IT DIDN'T OCCUR.

**The Bride Not a Citizen and So No License Could Be Had.**  
Franklin M. Edinger, a grocer at 114½ street, southwest, was headed straight for the realms of matrimonial bliss one day recently and making record time until he reached the city hall and applied for a license. Says the Washington Post: There he took a sudden header into an abyss of despair and 18-year-old Lena Jobst was shedding tears that night. These young people had talked the matter over and arranged for a quiet little wedding, to which their friends were to be invited. The prospective bridegroom's face wore a radiant smile as he bounded into the clerk's office. It was all right—he was 28 and Lena was 18; he was quite sure she was 18 and would be 19 in December. He was a citizen of the United States, he told the clerk, and then the clerk said:

"Is Lena a citizen, too?"  
"That struck the applicant as rather a good joke, and he laughed and said he would tell Lena when he went home, but the clerk finally convinced Franklin that he was thoroughly in earnest; that it was necessary to swear Lena was a citizen. Well, the man who was trying to become a benedict said he did not know. Lena had been brought to the United States by her parents when she was 2 years old. Was her father naturalized? Didn't know that, either; the father was dead and they could not ask him.

"Well, that settles it," the clerk observed. "I am afraid we can't do anything for you. The law, enacted by the last congress, says:

"No license for any marriage shall hereafter be issued to which any citizen of a foreign country shall be a party until a minister or a consul representing such foreign country in the United States shall certify that the conditions to the validity of the marriage laws of such country shall have been complied with."

And that is why a certain wedding announced to take place in South Washington society has been declared off. It would, no doubt, puzzle a foreign minister or a consul to find out whether Lena Jobst complied fully with all the marriage laws of Germany and lived up to them strictly to the time she was 2 years old, so there is really nothing left for this couple to do but get married somewhere else. It was some time before the clerk could make Franklin believe that the law could in any way prevent his marrying Lena, but when he thoroughly grasped the situation he expressed an opinion of the whole law-making process in language almost strong enough to change the marriage regulations without the intervention of congress.

**A Kitchen Telephone Service.**  
A novelty in the extension of the

telephone, introduced in San Francisco, may be called a kitchen telephone service. For fifty cents per month the local company will supply an instrument by which orders may be given to the butcher, grocer or other tradesmen, but through which no return answer can be received. A further concession is to allow communication with one other subscriber, but any other communication must be at the rate of five cents per call. The limit upon the service makes it improbable that any more than two calls a day will be made, and these can be provided at the low rate. It is inferred that the service is introduced for the purpose of educating the householder as to the advantage and convenience of the telephone, with the expectation that the trial will lead to a demand for the unlimited service at the higher rate.—Boston Transcript.

### Two Novel Parachutes.

An Italian aeronaut, named Capazza, has invented two balloon attachments, which are said to have fully realized the expectations formed of them. The one is an enormous parachute stretched over a balloon, and the other a folded, inverted parachute, which immediately acts as a huge air brake and effectually retards progress. On the other hand should the air vessel explode through expansion, fire or any other cause, the top parachute comes into action and a descent may be made without the slightest inconvenience.

### A Weeping Tree.

The weeping tree of the Canary islands is one of the wonders of plant life. It is of the laurel family, and rains down a copious shower of water drops from its tufted foliage. This water is often collected at the foot of the tree and forms a kind of pond, from which the inhabitants of the neighborhood can supply themselves with a beverage that is absolutely fresh and pure. The water comes out of the tree itself through innumerable little pores situated at the margin of the leaves. It issues from the plant as vapor during the daytime when the heat is sufficiently great to preserve it in that condition, but in the evening, when the temperature has lowered very much, a considerable quantity of it is exuded in the form of liquid drops that collect near the edges of the leaves until these members so bend down under their increasing weight as to pass, for them, the limit of the angle of repose, when the tears tumble off on the ground below in a veritable shower.—London Mail.

Leading electricians claim that the new vacuum tube light will be three times as brilliant as the present light and its cost only one-third as much.

### DINNER CARDS.

**How to Make the Bits of Pasteboard Prove Merriment.**

These dainty bits of pasteboard can be charmingly quaint and original, or else (as we often see) absolutely without ornamentation, or what is worse, decorated in the poorest manner, says the Philadelphia Press. There is no reason why the ingenuity and art expended on all the other details of the table should not be extended to these cards. Many a time one sees a little scene or flower in water-colors which has all the appearance of being cribbed from a Christmas card. Pen-and-ink sketches are seldom noticed and yet there one has scope for originality. Some little bit taken from a funny paper, or, if clever enough, out of one's own head, has all the attraction of novelty. Cupids, flowers, love letters and slippers for women; pipes, horses and dogs for the men. A clever idea is to sketch in fanciful letters the words: "Who the (then draw a devil) sits here?" If the hostess desires to touch up the little vanities and weaknesses for her guests here is her opportunity. Upon the author's card may be drawn a figure writing in the book of fame; for the musician, a muse playing on the lyre; for the man who talks too much, a parrot, shrieking: "Words! Words! Words!" and for the college girl, Cupid, in cap and gown, etc. Another source of comfort to be derived from the artistic cards would be the final death of that most awkward pause when the women are removing their gloves and the weather and the opera have not yet become the subjects of disinterested conversation. With these merry bits of pasteboard at each plate an occasion for laughter and jest would be given.

### A Tree with a Story.

A Norridgewock (Me.) farmer entertained 100 friends the other day, the table for the collation being set under a willow tree which has an interesting story. The day after President Lincoln was assassinated the farmer chanced to be three miles from home, and, to assist him in his walk across lots, cut a willow limb, which he used for a cane. As he climbed the fence into his yard he stuck the "cane" into the ground, top end down. It took root and grew, as willows often do, and today is a large tree, covering a space fifty-two feet in diameter.—New York Tribune.

### A New Telephone.

Edison's new telephone, a sample of which he had given to Li Hsing Chang, does away with the receiver, and permits a business man to carry on a conversation at a distance of a few feet from the instrument, which is placed against the wall of a room, without having his desk or touching the instrument, which works automatically.

### EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

**Statistics Not Required to Prove the Change.**

In the city of New York, in what may be called the office-building district, below Chambers street, where the population of a good-sized town is gathered tier on tier within the ground area of a common city lot, young women swarm, says the Forum. Morning and evening the streets are crowded with them. Farther uptown, for at least a couple of miles, at the same hours, a large proportion of the crowds that stream along the streets is young women also; these mostly of what is known as the shop-girl class. These are now common sights of city life, but a man need not be very old—at least, I hope not—to remember when the sight of a half-dozen young women in the neighborhood of Wall street was a novel and exciting event and when in the uptown stores, even in those devoted to the sale of the most esoteric constituents of women's attire, women were found as customers only, and were waited upon, more or less skillfully, by persons of the superior sex. Statistics, as I have said, are not required to prove the change. They are, however, useful to measure its extent. Take the figures of the census of 1890, with reference to the number of those engaged in what are classified as gainful occupations. The total is 22,735,661; it was 17,392,099 in 1880, an advance of 30.72 per cent. The increase in the number of males engaged in gainful occupations was 27.64 per cent, but the increase in the number of females was 47.68 per cent. As the increase in total population for the same period was a trifle under 25 per cent, it will be seen how very marked was the influx of women in the income-earning occupations. If now we turn to the employments as classified in the census reports we find the following ratios of increase prevail: Professional services, men 48.53 per cent, women 75.84 per cent; domestic and personal service, men 15.97 per cent, women 41.15 per cent; manufacturing and mechanical industries, men 46.91 per cent, women 62.87 per cent; trade and transportation, men 71.75 per cent, mechanical industries, men 46.91 per cent, women, of course, be misleading if the totals were disregarded, but they indicate clearly enough the direction in which the change has been going on and the lines on which it has been most marked, while the totals show that women are now a little more than 17 per cent of those engaged in gainful occupations, whereas in 1880 they were a little less than 15 per cent.

### ANOTHER SEA SERPENT.

**Sighted Off Borneo and Was a Wonder.**

Capt. Peabody of the big Portland packet Tam o' Shanter brings to port the latest tale of the sea serpent, which was sighted off Borneo, and, according to the estimate of that officer, was about 190 feet long, says the New York Tribune. It appeared in the midst of a field of snakes covering an extent of about fifty miles, through which the packet made its way like the ship of the ancient mariner amid the serpents of the poet's description is not more lurid than that which Capt. Peabody applies to the waters off Borneo. The rest of the snakes were of varying magnitude, but none of them came near the dimensions of the greater one, which outran all precedent, making the biggest of those described by Bishop Pontopidian seem small in comparison. Its diameter in the middle was apparently about ten feet, tapering off toward both ends, the head being of the size of a New Orleans molasses hoghead and the tail flattened into an instrument of propulsion, giving it any rate of speed which occasion required. It was covered with large, thick scales and its color above the water line was a mixture of yellow and green, blending underneath in a tint resembling that of a Long Island squash. It happened along just in time to witness a conflict between a gigantic shark and an equally colossal alligator, which it brought to a conclusion by seizing the former and biting it entirely in two, swallowing the section which contained the vanquished alligator and closing a competitive dietary incident which would have attracted attention anywhere. No such thrilling tale of this marvelous ophidian has been rehearsed within memory and the original Tam o' Shanter, whose name the discovering vessel bears, could not in his most rapt visionary mood have seen a bigger or more voracious one. Explorers of serpent lore ought to take ship for Borneo without delay if they think that the captain has been telling a straight story. It is an exciting one, at any rate, and the habitual ocean snake which appears in our water is a mere worm in comparison.

### Same Old Joker.

Bluesy's impecunious brother writes that he is in hard lines now and that he deserves something better because for every hair in his head he has done some generous and expensive act. "He's the same cultivated rascal. The fellow is as bald as a door knob."

### Imps.

Imp once meant a child. Shakespeare, speaking of the children in the tower, called them imps. Jeremy Taylor, in one of his sermons, speaks of "the beautiful imps that sang hosannas to the Saviour in the temple."

### Getting Even.

Miss Elderly—I am sorry to say no, I should think you could read my refusal in my face. The Rejected—I am not very expert at reading between the lines.—London Tid-bits.

"Johnny," asked his teacher, "what must we do before our sins can be forgiven?" "Sin," replied Johnny.—Boston Beacon.

### A Bird that Shaves Itself.

San Francisco Examiner. The lammergeyer, or bearded vulture, found throughout the whole mountain chains of the Old World, actually shaves himself. The expert barber who has for his customers crusty millionaires could not ply the keen-edged instrument to the stubby beard of his particular patron more deftly than the monarch of the mountain tops prunes his own bristly beard. The head of the vulture is clothed with feathers, and from the sides of the under mandible proceeds a row of black bristles. From this peculiar projection of feathers the bird derives its name. A layer of similar bristles begins at the eye and covers the nostrils, forming a fleecy mustache. With his strong and sharp claws which act as the razor, he trims his whiskers with great care and dexterity. He does this with great regularity and soon the downy beard and mustache give way to a full growth of bristly feathers.

### A Balzac Museum.

From Gentlewoman. At Levallois-Perret, very near Paris, there is a museum formed of souvenirs taken from Balzac's home, destroyed some years ago. It is with great difficulty one obtains permission to visit this museum; but once there, an archaeological student finds much of interest. Among other treasures are superb carvings, which were once ornaments above doors and window pieces. One of these represents a man holding his head on his right hand; above are engraved in stone the words, "Plus Despair." No one knows to whom the collection belongs, nor the reason for so much mystery.

### That Joyful Feeling.

With the exhilarating sense of renewed health and strength and internal cleanliness, which follows the use of Syrup of Figs, is unknown to the few who have not progressed beyond the old-time medicines and the cheap substitutes sometimes offered but never accepted by the well-informed.

The important announcement is made that in the November number of the Atlantic Monthly will appear the first of a series of exceedingly interesting reminiscences covering the last fifty years of the life of Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, under the apt title of "Cheerful Yesterdays." Col. Higginson's career as a writer, soldier, public servant and man of letters covers the last half century, and there is hardly a man or a movement of that time that he has not come into intimate relations with. These autobiographical papers, in a cheerful tone, really cover much of the most important history of this long period.

We will forfeit \$1,000 if any of our published testimonials are proven to be not genuine. THE PISO CO., Warren, Pa.

### The Festive Fly.

Flies are despised, but if everyone was as persistent and as hard to discourage as a fly more people would succeed. When a fly gets after a person it never knows when to stop. It may be scraped off fifty times, but it immediately comes back again and lights in about the same place. All efforts to kill a fly usually result only in personal injury. The Bible holds Job up as an example of patience, but we bet there were no flies in his time. —A tchison Globe.

Cascarets stimulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Never sicken, weaken or gripe.

### Doubted His Soundness.

"How do you like the new preacher?" "There's some of us that don't like him. We believe he's a gold bug." "Has he been preaching politics?" "Mighty near it. His first sermon was from the text, 'Whatsoever thou sowest, ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them,' and blame it, everybody knows that's the golden rule!"

Mrs. H. Sheppard, Room 24 Edling Block, Omaha, Neb., writes: "I have had constipation for a long time and I also had a bad case of internal hemorrhoids (piles) from which I suffered untold pain. Your Dr. Kay's Renovator has entirely cured me." Sold by druggists at 25 cts. and \$1. See advt.

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**TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.**  
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

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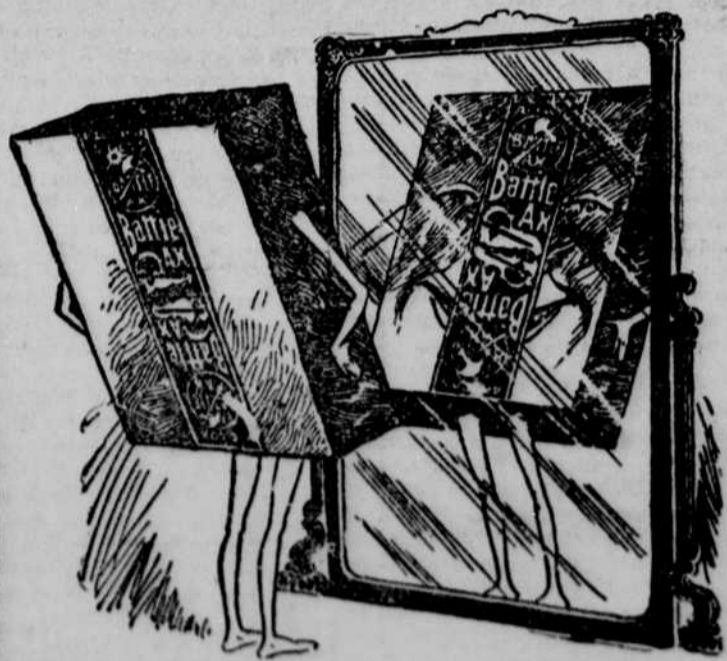
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