

SCIENTIFIC POINTERS.

CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY AND INVENTION.

An Invention for the Protection of Life at Sea—An Automatic Whistle for Use on Bicycles—Transplanting Plants—Sterilizing Water.



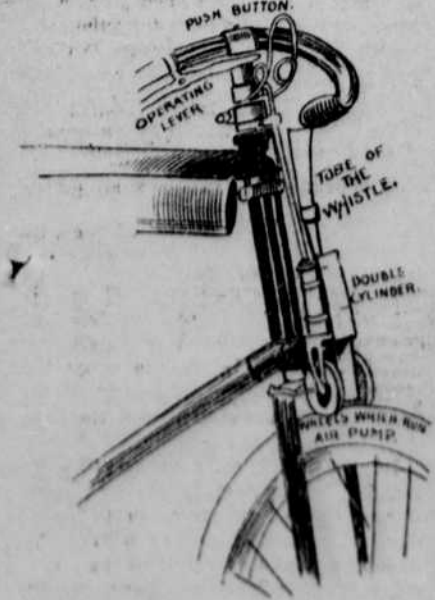
Transplanting Plants. PATENTED device for insuring health of transplanted plants is one of the novelties of the season. It consists of a glass funnel with automatic opening and closing device at the small end. The funnel is turned over the plant, and it is claimed practically insures it against the ill incident to removing it from one place to another.

Sterilizing Water.

The sterilization of water has become a most important item in domestic economy. Scientists long ago found out that ordinary processes of filtration are not only unsatisfactory but absolutely a waste of time and strength.

Automatic Bicycle Whistle.

Now that the people are demanding that the dangers attending bicycling on the streets be minimized, a St. Louis man has invented an alarm signal to be attached to the wheel. It is a whistle that in a modified way will give its alarm signals just as effectively as the whistle of the steamboat or the locomotive.



field of the handle post by two screws. At the base of the little nickel instrument are two tiny rubber wheels, which just touch the top of the tire of the front wheel of the bicycle.

An Electric Plant. A plant has recently been discovered in Nicaragua, which appears to be

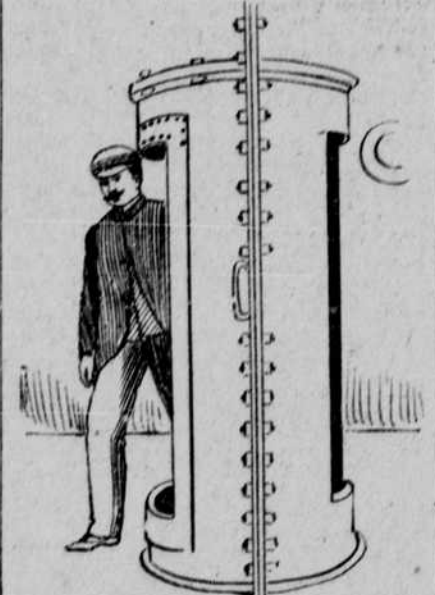
charged with electricity. If one of its branches is touched with the naked hand, a distinct shock is felt similar to that produced by a battery. Its influence upon a magnetic needle is noticeable at a distance of half a dozen yards, and as one gets nearer the plant this influence increases, while, if the instrument is placed in the center of the bush, it will assume a steady circular movement.

Fight for a Tree's Life.

The oldest tree in the great botanical garden, the Jardin des Plantes, at Paris, is an acacia, planted 230 years ago. This tree is described by La Nature as being covered with "wrinkles of old age," and supported on "crutches."

To Protect Life at Sea.

An English inventor has perfected a contrivance that should lessen the perils of the sea. It is a door for use in watertight compartments, and the plan of it is so very simple that the wonder is that it was not earlier devised.



essarily closes the other. Therefore the door is always closed. It is easy to pass through in the manner shown in the illustration. This invention, if introduced widely, will do away with a great source of danger—carelessness in leaving doors open between watertight compartments.

Economics of the Yukon Finds.

The story of California and Australia is being repeated today; death by hunger, cold and thirst is being again encountered in the desert regions west of the 100th meridian by the rush of gold miners hustling and scrambling to the Yukon valley of Alaska, where 70 degrees below zero is accounted a mild winter.

Magnetized by Lightning.

Among the curious effects ascribed to lightning is the magnetization of parts of rocks struck by it. The existence of such magnetized rocks has long been known, but the supposition that their condition was due in many cases to lightning has only recently been confirmed by a curious observation of Doctor Folgerhailer among the walls of ancient buildings on the campana near Rome.

Experiments show that a light of one candle power is plainly visible at one mile, and one of three-candle power at two miles. A ten candle power light was seen with a binocular at four miles, one of twenty-nine at five miles, though faintly, and one of thirty-three candles at the same distance without difficulty.

LITTLE HEROINE OF THE KLONDIKE.

Chilkoot Pass Correspondence New York World: Little Miss Bessie Lassarge will be the "Heroine of the Klondike" if ever that proud distinction shall be won. I found her en route to the gold fields, traveling all alone, and among all the tales of courage, perseverance and self-sacrifice of which one hears in infinite variety, that of this pretty nineteen-year-old Argonaut stands out in golden letters.

I learned that six years ago this girl, then thirteen years old, went to Tacoma with her mother from New York. Times had been hard in the East, and the mother, a widow, saw no apparent escape from the slough of despond into which she was steadily sinking.

But in Tacoma the mother found it impossible to make both ends meet, and so it became necessary, a year or two after her arrival, to place a mortgage on the little cottage which she had bought with the money still remaining, in order that she and her young daughter might keep the wolf from the door.

It is this that has spurred Bessie to reach the mines. I doubt if any other woman who has come Klondike-ward has a nobler object to attain than this little girl. For she is making the



LITTLE MISS BESSIE LASSARGE.

TYRANNY OF THE "400."

"We may, if we choose, sneer at nobility and scoff at social struggles," writes Elizabeth Bisland in the Ladies' Home Journal, "but when a man is ambitious or a woman is proud he or she desires to secure for himself or herself, and for their children, the privilege of being received as an equal anywhere. And however much one may rail, the fact remains that wealth and fashion do set, and have always set, the standard in social life, and that if one wishes a free admission everywhere one must conform one's self to that standard."

Feminine Sharpness.

The author of "A Letter of Postscript" tells the following story of Mrs. Ashley, a beautiful Southern woman, who was afterward the wife of the Hon. J. J. Crittenden. She was a belle in society, and was dowered with unusual tact and charm.

"There is one industry that is sure to suffer by the Klondike harvest," "Which one?" "Cold bricks."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

PERISH IN THE PASS.

EIGHTEEN KLONDIKERS LOST IN A LANDSLIDE.

Only One Body Recovered—Victims Were Packers on the Dyea Trail—Steamer Aiki Returns With Many Disappointed Passengers—Suffering Along the Klondike.

Buried in an Avalanche.

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., Sept. 25.—The tug Pioneer, which left Puget Sound September 13 with the bark Shirley in tow for Skaguay, returned at 1 o'clock this morning, having made the run down in ninety-six hours. The Pioneer brings a report of a landslide near Sheep camp, on the Chilkoot pass, last Sunday morning, in which eighteen men are said to have lost their lives.

The officers of the Pioneer says that the story was brought to Skaguay Sunday evening by three men, who told it in such a way as to leave no doubt as to its truthfulness. They described the avalanche as consisting of rocks, ice and dirt which had been loosened by the rain, which had been falling continuously during the past month.

W. W. Sprague, of Tacoma, who started eight weeks ago with a three-years' outfit, returned from Skaguay on the schooner.

The steamer Aiki, a week overdue from Alaska, arrived this morning at 4 o'clock. It carried a large list of men returning from Skaguay who were unable to cross the pass. The snow was six inches deep at Lake Benton, and three inches fell on the summit of the Chilkoot pass last Saturday.

HURRICANE PREDICTED.

Professor Wiggins Says the Planets Are in Position to Raise a Hurricane.

OTTAWA, Ont., Sept. 25.—Professor Wiggins predicts a great hurricane and says:

"The announcement by the marine department that a hurricane is now moving up the Atlantic coast from the West Indies is a meteorological event of more than common interest. That a great storm is near is a meteorological fact. The moon will be in conjunction with Jupiter and Mercury on the 25th, and Mars on the 27th. The moon crosses the celestial equator on the 25th, moving southward. She will be in conjunction with the sun on the 26th at 1 o'clock, p. m., London time, and will be at her perigee or nearest point in her orbit to the earth on the 28th. They are all or nearly all dangerous elements to the mariner, for they indicate a storm on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 29th, with high tides on the North American coast."

LILY'S MARRIAGE PLANS.

Mrs. Langtry Expects to Become Princess Esterhazy in California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 25.—Henry C. McPike, attorney for Mrs. Lily Langtry when she secured her divorce last May, said yesterday: "I have recently received from my client, Mrs. Langtry, notice of her intention to return to California by the end of November. Prince Esterhazy will accompany her and immediately upon their arrival here they will be married in Lake county, I presume, for her home is there. Because they have preferred to be married in this state it must be argued that either Mrs. Langtry or Prince Esterhazy regard the former divorce as lacking in legality in any other jurisdiction. On the contrary, they are advised by their solicitors in London that the decree granted at Lakeport has freed her absolutely from Edward Langtry, so that she may marry in any part of the world, if she chooses."

LIVE STOCK MEN SUED.

South Omaha Exchange Made Defendants in Anti-Trust Law Suit.

OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 25.—Suit has just been brought by the United States against the South Omaha Live Stock exchange and all its members, under the Sherman anti-trust law. Its membership amounts to a few over 200. The suit is authorized by Attorney General McKenna. The papers in the suit were filed with him some time ago by Attorney John T. Catlers of this city.

Train Robbery Frustrated. GUTHRIE, Okla., Sept. 25.—An attempt to hold up the south bound Santa Fe passenger train near Edmond at 7 o'clock last night was frustrated by deputy marshals and several of Chief Kenney's men. The outlaws are being chased. Two of them are deputy United States marshals.

Farm House and Three Children.

DALLAS, Texas, Sept. 25.—Near New Boston, Bowie county, yesterday, fire destroyed the home of Jefferson Connor, a farmer, and burned his three small children to death during the absence of the rest of the family. The cause of the conflagration has not been learned.

Twenty Killed by an Earthquake.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—A private dispatch from Rome says that about forty persons were killed and many others injured by an earthquake at the sulphur mines near Gergenti.

WAS THE FIRST MAYOR.

Made the Big Fellow Run for His Life.

"We 'lowed we had the pionest terror on the whole slope," said the man who made his pile in the west and then came back east to enjoy it, according to the Detroit Free Press. "His name was Buck Grimmer; leastwise that was the way he gave it out. He was a big bull-necked feller with an arm like a mill post, a ugly scowl and eyes what allus made me think of a rattlesnake. He had all the settlement under cow, fur it got 'round somehow as how he had planted eight or ten men, and we had all see him do some mighty fancy shootin'." He made half a dozen men leave the place and run things pretty much the same like he was a king. We had one ciferter there named Emery Little. He didn't weigh mor'n ninety-five pounds, had a dried up look, never had much to say and seemed to carry about the idea that the best plan was fur every person to tend to his own business. An 'observin' man could tell that Little knowed a whole lot, but he was not a feller to give himself tuff. When we organized into a village, Buck gave it out as how he was goin' to be mayor. The first thing we knowed there was a letter in that little weekly paper of ours, signed by Little. He made out that Buck was a runaway from justice, a big ignorant bluff and a false alarm. Them things was pretty hard to swallow and we all begin kind of arranging things so as to 'lead Little's funeral. Buck jist located himself in front of the biggest saloon in the place where Little had to pass. We asked him if there wasn't no way of settlin' 'thout wipin' Little out, but Buck said no. He was goin' to give the man a show, but his checks must be cashed in. When Little come along, lookin' as though nothin' had ever bothered him, Buck halted him with an oath. He had a pair of guns there and two big knives a sharp as razors. Little could pick his weepins and take his choice. We all felt sorry for the little cuss, but he had brung it on himself. He picked up one of the knives, give it a whirl in the air and tole Buck to git ready. That big cut turned white, begged, tried to say it was all a joke and then lit out. There wasn't a grain of sand in him. Look at the records and you'll see that Emery Little was the first mayor."

FORGOT HIS VERSE.

Henry Clay Made a Decided Hit With Another One.

In the early '20s of this century Henry Clay was appointed by the legislature of Kentucky a commissioner to Virginia to ask of that state that a commission be appointed to make a definite line of demarcation between the two states. Upon his arrival in Richmond he was received with great courtesy by its most distinguished citizens. He said that his profession, politics and affairs of government had occupied his time so extensively that he was aware of knowing little of polite literature or the favorite passions of the day. This prompted him to ask an old friend whom he knew to be a literary man to select some lines to introduce when addressing the legislature, as a quotation expressive of his feelings toward the state of Virginia as his birthplace. His friend suggested a stanza from Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel," which he highly approved and memorized. The day appointed for his address found the galleries, halls and every available space crowded with eager, expectant auditors and many beautiful women in bright attire gave brilliancy to the scene. Clay held the attention of his audience with entire success until he came to the part where he meant to introduce the quotation. Then his memory failed him. The shock was appalling for a moment. He stood rigid and pale before a thousand watchful eyes, and his mind only a blank, before him a turbulent sea of upturned faces. With a characteristic gesture threw up his hands to his forehead and in his most sonorous tones he recited the following words: Breathes there the man with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said, This is my own, my native land. He concluded his speech amid deafening applause. Everyone present had supposed that he was overcome by emotion, and none but the friend who had selected the quotation for him perceived the cause of his momentary panic.—Florida Citizen.

Six Messages on One Wire.

From the Boston Herald: A sextuplex telegraphic wire was successfully operated in a telegraphic office in this city last night in the presence of representatives of New York and Boston papers. The circuit was to New Haven and return, a distance of three hundred miles. Three different messages were sent over the wire simultaneously, and were easily and accurately received on the receiving side. The inventor of the new scheme is Thomas B. Dixon of Kentucky, son of the late Senator Archibald Dixon of that state. He is a practical telegrapher, and has been striving to solve the problem of sextuplex since 1891.

Merely a French Duel.

"Will you dine with me, monsieur?" "How soon? I have an engagement to fight a duel in an hour." "Say, in an hour and a half, then. And I should be glad to have the company of your seconds and your antagonist, also." "I will extend your invitation to him after the duel, and doubtless we will both be there."—Chicago Post.

A Cattle Dealer of Maitland, Mo., is named Goodpasture.