

GIANT TASK IN RAILROAD BUILDING

Two Carloads of Powder in a Single Blast—\$250,000 Paid for One Mile of Track—2,629 Men Employed on a Piece of Track Being Built for the Wabash System.

Cumberland, Md., May 2.—"Look out! Look out! It's going off!" was the wild cry heard a few days ago in Paw Paw, a small mountain encircled West Virginia town, on the new line of the Wabash, twenty miles east of Cumberland, when the ringing of bells and blowing of whistles gave the warning that in a few minutes the button would be pressed that would explode 8,000 pounds of giant powder in the rocky mountain side directly opposite and close to the town.

For three days the people of Paw Paw had watched men carrying can after can of powder into the tunnels dug into the face of rocks. As the number of cans disappearing in the mountain side increased the alarm of the people grew, and some in terror left the town, while those remaining filled their ears with cotton and waited for—they knew not what.

At last, when 325 cans of powder, 8,125 pounds, had been emptied in the arms extending right and left from the inner ends of the two 45-foot tunnels, wires laid and the tunnel closed, the electric button was pressed. There was a deep, rumbling report, the whole earth seemed to rock as though shaken by an earthquake and tons of rock plunged forward and toppled over into the canal and river.

Carloads of Powder in One Blast.

Not a stone had been thrown a hundred feet toward the frenzied town, but 20,000 yards of rock had been torn from the mountain side and many precious days saved the contractors who are building the "link" connecting the Western Maryland railroad at Cherry Run with the West Virginia Central railroad at Cumberland, and thus bringing nearer realization George Gould's dream of making the Wabash railroad an ocean to ocean line.

It was only the proximity of this blast to a town that made it particularly prominent on this railroad construction that is requiring a blast for almost every foot of the roadbed. In fact it was a small one in comparison to some that have been fired. In one blast, in Sidling Hill mountain, the charge consisted of 1,400 cans of powder, just two carloads, and when it was put off rocks weighing half a ton were hurled through the air hundreds of yards, across the Potomac river and striking telegraph poles along the Baltimore & Ohio railroad broke them off close to the ground.

It is this necessity for almost continuous blasting that has done much toward making this sixty-five mile strip of railroad construction the most expensive of any built in recent years, with the single exception of the line over which the Wabash enters Pittsburgh. The cost of building the first five miles from Cumberland averaged \$250,000 a mile and the average cost for the sixty-five miles is \$100,000 a mile. In building this connecting link, the Wabash has had to contend with an unusually large number of obstacles of a surprising variety, some placed in the way by nature, others by man.

Tunneling Through Solid Rock.

Until the advent of the Wabash it was supposed there was no feasible route through the narrow gaps in the mountains between Cumberland and Hancock, forty miles, save those followed by the Chesapeake and Ohio canal and the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. It was this belief that has kept life in the old waterway, life sustained by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company to bar out any possible rival. Some years ago the Hon. Henry G. Davis, then owner of the West Virginia Central railroad, had a route surveyed through the country followed by the Wabash, but it was given up as impracticable. As a result, it is not surprising that the construction of this road is proving one of the greatest undertakings of years, requiring application of almost every method known in railroad building and the ingenuity of contractors, who have built railroads in almost every state in the union, has been taxed to the utmost.

Upon forty miles of this line there are engaged to-day 2,629 men, 300 animals, nine locomotives and nine steam shovels. For eighteen months there has been no cessation of labor and it is hoped that in eight more the work will be completed.

Obstacles to Be Met.

An idea of the difficulties encountered can be formed from the fact that this line in forty miles crosses the Potomac river nine times, the Chesapeake & Ohio canal seven times, the Baltimore & Ohio railroad three times, passes through mountain ranges and spurs by five tunnels, varying in length from 700 feet to 4,400 feet, through ridges and hills by innumerable cuts, many of them over fifty feet deep through solid rock and some almost a mile in length, and that a great portion of the road is being cut out of the rocky sides of mountain ranges, directly above the canal. One of the most unusual difficulties in railroad construction, and yet the most troublesome on this line has been a disposition of the earth and rock removed in making the roadbed, a difficulty arising from the fact that the Wabash follows closely the canal route. While waiting for legal right to bridge the old waterway it was necessary to push the construc-

tion work and to do this the contractors employed some striking methods.

At Welton tunnel, a mile south of Cumberland, a large wheel was placed on top of the mountain above the tunnel entrance, cables were run from this across the river and canal to the low land, where filling was necessary, and the rock from the tunnel was carried over in a large iron bucket suspended from the cables. The laborers' camp was located on top of the mountain and the men constructed a 150-foot ladder leading up the precipitous face of rocks from the mouth of the tunnel, and this ladder they ascended and descended many times a day.

In the construction of the Indigo tunnel, a method never before employed in the East, and rarely elsewhere, is being employed. This is the greatest tunnel on the line, being 4,400 feet in length. It passes through a Sidling Hill mountain range and makes the Wabash a straighter line and almost a mile in three shorter than the Baltimore & Ohio. It is being made by drilling the heading (the full width of the tunnel, twenty-four feet, and nine feet high) through from the bottom or at a grade level, and the rock will be blown down until the required height is reached. Old contractors, accustomed to driving the heading through from the top, shake their heads and pronounce this method a "costly experiment," but McArthur Bros. say the strata, Indigo shale, is just right at this tunnel for this method and are confident it will be a success. The heading is being driven from both ends at the same time and the men are within 100 feet of each other, nine feet a day being the progress made from each end. The men working from the eastern end have penetrated only eleven inches further than those coming from the western side.

The "Stick Pile" Tunnel.

In order to cut a roadbed through the masses of rock that rise straight up from the bed of the canal it was necessary to wait until navigation closed for the year. In the meantime the holes for the blasts were all prepared and when the water was withdrawn, about a month later than ever before, thousands of pounds of powder and dynamite were exploded in these holes and the canal bed was filled with earth and rock for many miles which must be removed within the next two months.

The only place where the Wabash leaves the canal and river for any considerable distance is at Bayard, thirty-five miles east of Cumberland. After crossing the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, the river and canal, at a dizzy height on a 1,370-foot bridge, five 150-foot channel spans with viaduct approach, it strikes boldly into the mountains. After running through tremendous cuts, over deep ravines and through the Stick Pile tunnel 1,600 feet in length, it emerges from its five-mile run through the heart of the mountain at Orleans, W. Va. This is considered one of the heaviest pieces of work on the line, but here as at many other places, a comparatively straight line is secured with moderate grades and with a saving of almost a mile over the Baltimore & Ohio route.

The first work was done on this connecting link on July 21, 1903, and the contract called for its completion in eighteen months. The delay and extra work occasioned by trouble with the canal rendered its completion within contract time an impossibility. Now, October 1, is the date set for the opening of the road, but it is claimed January 1, 1906, would be a nearer date.

From Cherry Run to Hancock, ten miles, the road is completed and trains are running on it. For ten miles east of Cumberland the roadbed is ready for the rails and the three bridges are in course of erection. At numerous other places there are four and five mile stretches completed, but there remains a great amount of difficult work to be done. It is only the fact that work is being rushed day and night, regardless of weather conditions and without regard to expense, that makes safe the prediction that not later than January 1, 1906, the Wabash will have this line open for traffic.

Endurance of the Jap.

In the orient there is a new art of war depending upon a new style of physique of a race which has never before been put to this work. The Jap is short, stocky and blessed with muscles big enough for a much taller man. He is consequently able to do more work than a European of equal weight. A rural letter-carrier thinks nothing of distances for which we demand horses and in exceptional cases the rickshaw man has been known to trot forty miles in a day dragging the passenger. The daily drills of the soldiers include athletic exercises too severe for the average European soldier, such as running up and down long flights of stairs. It is not surprising, then, that their troops should cover long distances, and the reports of four successive days of thirty-five, twenty-five, thirty and fifteen miles of marching are perfectly credible. They are reported to have marched forty-eight hours without food and with little rest, and then to have fought well, though captured men have dropped asleep instantly.—American Medicine.

THE NEWS IN NEBRASKA

ELECTION LAW CASE FILED.

Matter to Be Brought Before the Court for Decision.

LINCOLN—Chief Justice Holcomb granted Orpheus B. Polk, a Lincoln attorney, an alternative writ of mandamus compelling Secretary of State Galusha to appear and show cause why he should not place on file a certificate of nomination, offered by the relator. By agreement of attorneys the case, which is a formal one, made up for the purpose of testing house roll 235, the biennial election law, will be for hearing at the first sitting in June. This was done to give the numerous friends of the court who desire to be heard an opportunity to file briefs. Attorney General Brown filed a formal demurrer denying the sufficiency of the petition, and setting up the fact that under the law there will be no election in the year 1905. Although Brown is formally the attorney who will defend the law, the major portion of that work will necessarily fall on the friends of the court. The relator alleges that he has presented a formal certificate of nomination for regent of the university and that its acceptance was refused. He asserts that he is an independent republican candidate for the place. Polk had intended to initiate the proceedings by offering a certificate of nomination for the county judgeship with County Clerk Dawson, but that official intimated that he would probably accept it for filing.

CAUGHT A RUNAWAY TEAM

And Has Now Married Girl Who Was in the Vehicle.

NEBRASKA CITY—A few days ago at the home of the bride's parents, occurred one of the prettiest weddings of the season. It was the marriage of Miss Nora Miller to Mr. Joseph Ledbetter of Juneau, Alaska. The wedding was a very elaborate affair and a large number of guests were present. The bride is the daughter of Councilman Frank Miller and wife, and one of the handsomest young ladies in the city. The groom is a wealthy merchant of Juneau. After the ceremony the couple left for the south and will travel until the latter part of next month, when they will go to their northern home.

This wedding is the outgrowth of a romance. The young lady was up in Alaska two years ago, with her cousin, visiting her uncle, a wealthy banker of that country, and while out riding one day the team took fright and ran away. They were headed for a high bluff when caught by Mr. Ledbetter, who chanced to be out riding on horseback. The young man was invited to the banker's home where he met the young lady twice before she returned home. Mr. Ledbetter fell in love with her, and the following year made a visit here. The groom has become wealthy since he went to that northern country. He was a comparatively poor boy when he left his home some seven years ago to go to the frigid north to carve out his fortune.

OLD VALUATION STANDS.

Pullman Car Company Assessment Remains Unchanged.

LINCOLN—Pullman car magnates may rest in peace. The valuation will not be increased over the former assessment by the state board of equalization. This was apparent when the members listened to desultory arguments this morning and then laid the whole matter over until another meeting.

State Treasurer Mortensen favored a valuation of 100 per cent. However, it was moved by Secretary of State Galusha that the valuation be the same as last year and Land Commissioner Eaton thought that he approved such a course. However, it was decided to look into the franchise value a little bit. It was stated that the valuation would not be raised and the representatives of the Pullman interests did not seem worried.

As to Common Law Marriage.

The supreme court denies a motion for a rehearing in the case of Sorensen against Soressen, from Valley county, involving the right of the child of an alleged common law marriage to the large estate left by a wealthy farmer. The court holds that there is a presumption of the existence of marriage which arises from co-habitation and holding each other out to the world as husband and wife, and public policy will not prevent a child born of such relations from availing himself of such presumption in a contest as to legitimacy.

Cleveland Helps a College.

LINCOLN—P. L. Jackson, financial secretary of Hastings college, at Hastings, Neb., went to Princeton, N. J., for the purpose of asking ex-President Cleveland to contribute toward the endowment fund of the school. A dispatch received from him says that Mr. Cleveland has made a liberal contribution.

Must Show Ability to Maintain Wife.

LINCOLN—The supreme court holds that Fred Goddard, sentenced by the Chase county district court to nine months in the penitentiary for wife desertion, is entitled to a new trial because of deficient evidence, and because the information fails to state that he wilfully and without good cause neglected and refused to maintain his wife. The deficiency in the evidence, the court states, lay in the failure of the prosecution to prove

STATE NOTES.

A fire at Auburn destroyed property to the value of \$5,000.

The new Christian church at Peru was dedicated last Sunday.

Grand Island will probably institute a rock pile for transgressors.

A new flouring mill, of 100 barrels capacity, is to be built at Brainard.

Charles Jones will open a park at Beatrice with boating on the Blue as a feature.

The Methodist church at Nebraska City has just celebrated its golden anniversary.

Kearney is perfecting arrangements for putting a first class base ball team in the field.

Final plans for the remodeling of the Burlington station at Lincoln have been completed.

Nebraska City saloons are now required to close at midnight and to remain closed all day Sundays.

Charged with statutory assault on his 16-year-old stepdaughter, Anton Nelson of Kennard was arrested in Fremont.

Campbell Bros.' shows, which wintered at Fairbury, gave two performances in that city and then left for the season's tour.

Timothy Sedwick of York was low man on the major fraction of the state printing. Several minor contracts were secured by Lincoln firms.

Food Commissioner Thompson of Hall county has been reappointed by Governor Mickey. He received his first appointment two years ago from Governor Mickey.

The work of tearing down the old court house at Wahoo is now in progress, the material to be used in the construction of a dormitory annex by the Luther academy.

Fremont is to have a Chautauqua assembly the coming summer, given under the direction of local people. Rev. Frank Emerson James has taken the initiative and is already engaged securing attractions.

State Treasurer Mortensen has bought \$60,000 of Boyd county bonds at face value, the bonds to begin drawing interest July 1. The bonds are dated April 2, 1905, draw 4 per cent interest, due in twenty years.

H. E. Hassinger, for years the proprietor of the New York Racket store in Seward, has sold out his business and accepted a position in the civil service, for which he intends to leave before the middle of the month.

Charles McIntosh of Tecumseh, the man wanted on a statutory charge, is still at large despite the efforts of Sheriff Cummings to locate him. A child was born to his alleged victim, Miss Gates.

While he was engaged in unloading refuse in a stubble field on his farm in Hall county, Dietrich Steibek's horses became frightened, he fell in front of the wheels, and the wagon passed over him, crushing his ribs and fatally injuring him.

As yet Charles M. Chamberlain of Tecumseh has failed to secure a sufficient number of signers to his \$25,500 bond for trial on the charge of embezzlement. He is going out among his friends, under the care of the sheriff, soliciting signers.

At Long Pine, while Rev. A. L. Tainter, pastor of the Methodist church, was holding services, his house was entered and \$23 in small change, the Easter missionary offering, and his overcoat were taken. The thief was arrested.

Notices were posted about Schuyler of the loss by some one of \$700, \$600 in \$100 bills, the remainder in bills of smaller denomination. The loser was Murt McKenzie, who walked from his home to the postoffice and back Sunday and while on the trip suffered the loss as recited. The money has not been found.

George Hefferman of Jackson, Neb., was found dead in his room in the Hotel Locke at Sioux City. He had been in the city on a drunken debauch and is supposed to have accidentally turned the gas on during the night.

Harve Beckner, who was arrested at New Richmond, Wis., on the charge of deserting his wife and eight children, was brought back to Nebraska City by Sheriff Shrader, and will have his hearing before Justice Timblin. He states he and his wife agreed to separate and he made all provisions for the care of his family before leaving there.

Members of the state board of equalization are anticipating trouble in connection with the amendments to the revenue law permitting county assessors to correct real estate assessments. Reports from Sherman county indicate that an effort has been made to reopen the real estate assessments made last year under the provision for quadrennial valuations of such property.

As M. L. Neely, a young farmer of Otoe county, was going home early Sunday morning, a Missouri Pacific engine and three cars caught him at a crossing and run him down. His buggy was crushed, his horse killed and he was badly injured, but will probably recover.

Exeter has a new industry and manufactory by the name of the Brilliantine Polish company, an entirely new process and compound in liquid form for all kinds of cleaning and polishing work has been discovered, which is claiming considerable attention locally at present.

FOOD VALUE OF FRUIT

Prejudice Against Its Liberal Use Is Result of Erroneous Notions.

There are many popular but unfounded prejudices against the dietetic use of fruits. It is generally supposed, for example, that fruits are conducive to bowel disorders, and that they are especially prone to produce indigestion if taken at the last meal. The truth is the very opposite of these notions. An exclusive diet of fruit is one of the best-known remedies for chronic bowel disorders. During the late war, large numbers of the soldiers suffering from chronic dysentery were in several instances rapidly cured when abundantly supplied with ripe peaches. Fruit juice may be advantageously used in both acute and chronic bowel disorders. Care must be taken, however, to avoid fruit juices which contain a large amount of cane sugar. Juices of sweet fruits should be employed, or a mixture of sour and sweet fruit juices, or acid fruit juice may be sweetened with malt honey or melrose, a natural sweet produced from cereals. Raisins, figs, prunes, sweet apples and pears may be mixed with sour fruits.

Indigestion sometimes results from the use of fruits in combination with a variety of other food substances; but fruits taken alone constitute the best possible menu for the last meal of the day. The combination of fruit, sugar, cream, bread, butter, cake and pie may well produce bad dreams and a bad taste in the mouth in the morning. The use of fresh or stewed fruit alone without any addition whatever will produce no disturbance, and will leave no unpleasant effects behind to be regretted in the morning. Very acid fruits sometimes disagree with persons who have an excess of acid and those who are suffering from chronic inflammation of the stomach; but with these exceptions, there is almost no case in which fruit may not be advantageously used.

The notion that acid fruits must be avoided by rheumatics is another error which is based on inaccurate observations. The fact is, rheumatics are greatly benefited by the use of fruit. At the same time they should abstain from the use of flesh foods of all sorts, beef tea and animal broths, and all meat preparations, also tea and coffee, as well as alcohol and tobacco. It is, of course, possible for one to take an excess of acids, as one may take an excess of starch or any other food substance. Vegetable acids differ from mineral acids in the fact that they do not accumulate in the body, but are assimilated or utilized in the same way as sugar and allied substances.

Diseased Cattle for Slaughter.

A deliberate attempt to send a carload of diseased cattle for slaughter in New York was recently foiled by the State Agricultural Department. Word was received of the shipping of the stock and the car was intercepted in the railroad yards in New York by the department's agents. Of twenty cows found in the car, three were in a dying condition, and soon expired. Eight others were suffering from advanced tuberculosis, and at least three from pneumonia. It was also learned that several others of the herd had died at Utica before they could be transferred to the car on the New York train. It is intended to prosecute the shipper of the cattle.

A Substitute for Leather.

An English inventor has devised a perfect substitute for leather which can be used for boots, shoes and for every other purpose for which leather is employed. The new tissue is called wolfit. It is being extensively used in England, having been adopted by the London Shoe Company especially for walking shoes on account of its coolness and its lightness. Wolfit is more durable than leather and is much more waterproof, while at the same time more porous, which makes it a nonconductor, and to a large degree obviates the necessity for wearing rubbers which are needed by one whose feet are clad with leather only when the slush and mud is so deep that the feet are half buried at every step.

Frances Willard and Fashionable Dress.

Said Frances Willard in one of her last addresses, speaking of the advancement and present status of women: "But be it remembered that until woman comes to her kingdom physically she will never really come at all. Created to be well and strong and beautiful, she long ago 'sacrificed' her constitution, and has ever since been living on her by-laws.' She has made of herself an hourglass, whose sands of life passed quickly by. She has walked when she should have run, sat when she should have walked, reclined when she should have sat. She has allowed herself to become a mere lay figure upon which could be fastened any hump or hoop or farthingale that fashion-mongers show; and oftentimes her head is a mere rotary ball upon which milliners may perch whatever they please—be it a bird of paradise, or beast or creeping thing. She has bedraggled her senseless long skirts in whatever combination of filth the street presented, submitting to a motion the most awkward and degrading known to the entire animal kingdom, for Nature has endowed all others that carry trains and trails with the power of lifting

them without turning in their tracks, but a fashionable woman pays lowest obeisance to what follows in her own wake; and, as she does so, cuts the most grotesque figure outside a jumping jack. She is a creature born to the beauty and freedom of Diana, but she is swathed by her skirts, splintered by her stays, bandaged by her tight waist, and pinioned by her sleeves until—alas, that I should live to say it!—a trussed turkey or a spitted goose are her most appropriate emblems."

Food Value of Eggs.

Eggs are a very nourishing food and represent two important elements, fats and proteins, in an easily assimilated form. A single egg weighs about one and one-half ounces, of which one ounce is white, or pure albumin, and one-half ounce yolk. The nutritive value of the yolk is greater than that of the white, though its bulk and weight are smaller. Its solid constituents are about one half of its fat. Fresh eggs, properly prepared, are readily digestible. The best mode of preparation is whipped raw, or cooked for twenty or thirty minutes at a temperature of about 160° (curdled). The yolks are more easily digested when boiled hard, and the whites are also easily digested when hard boiled, providing care is used to reduce the coagulated white to minute particles which may readily be dissolved by the gastric juice.

A single egg is equal in value to a dozen oysters.

Very Dissipated.

There are a good many persons who might be said to be dissipated and "all broke up" according to the Japanese use of the word, illustrated in the following anecdote:

"They are telling in Boston of two or three Japanese students of rank who have been in the habit of dining each Sunday at the residence of one of the prominent citizens of the Hub. On a recent Sunday one was absent, and when the host asked why, one of the guests said solemnly: 'Oh, he cannot come. He is very, very dissipated!' The host thought it best not to make any further inquiry at the time, but after the meal he ventured to ask the same young man in private, 'You say Mr. Nim Shi is not well?'"

"No, he not very well—he very dissipated."

"He hasn't been drinking?"

"Oh, no, no! he no drunk."

"Not gambling?"

"No, no gamble."

"May I ask what he has been doing, then?"

"Oh, he very dissipated. He eat sponge cake alee time—he all broke up now."

RECIPES.

Mashed Peas With Nuts.—Soak a pint of Scotch peas overnight in cold water. In the morning drain and put them to cook in warm water. Cook slowly until perfectly tender, allowing them to simmer very gently toward the last until they become as dry as possible. Put through a colander to remove the skins. Cook the peanuts separately, drain from the juice, rub through a colander, and add to the peas. Beat well together, season with salt, turn into an earthen or granite-ware pudding dish, smooth the top, and bake in a moderate oven until dry and mealy. If preferred, one-third toasted bread crumbs may be used with the peas and a less proportion of nuts. Serve hot like mashed potato.

Graham Gems.—Place one pint of cold water in a crock, add one egg; beat water, egg and a pinch of salt together. Then add 1½ cups of white flour and ¾ cup of graham flour, beat thoroughly, and bake in a quick oven.

Irish Corn Soup.—Take one pint of slice potato cooked until tender, add one pint of corn pulp obtained by rubbing cooked dried corn through a colander. Season with salt, add water to make a proper consistency, reheat, and serve.

Split-Pea Soup.—For each quart of soup desired, simmer one cup of split peas very slowly in three pints of boiling water for six hours or until thoroughly dissolved. When done, rub through a colander, add salt and a slice of onion to flavor. Reheat and season with one-half cup of thin cream or a spoonful of nut meal prepared as directed below. Remove the slice of onion with a fork. Serve hot with croutons.

Croutons.—Cut stale bread into small squares or cubes, and brown thoroughly in a moderate oven. Put a spoonful or two of the croutons in each plate, and turn the hot soup over them.

Baked Parsnips.—Wash, scrape and divide; drop into boiling water, a little more than sufficient to cook them, and boil gently till thoroughly tender. There should remain about one-half pint of the liquor when the parsnips are done. Arrange on an earthen plate or shallow pudding-dish, not more than one layer deep; cover with the juice and bake, basting frequently until the juice is all absorbed and the parsnips delicately browned. Serve at once.

Orange Nectar.—Extract the juice of six oranges and two lemons, being careful not to get the flavor of rind. Add enough water to make six glasses of nectar. Sweeten.