

## SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.

The total undeveloped energy of Niagara Falls is estimated by electrical experts to be 8,000,000 horse power.

Of fifty-six gophers observed in 1897 thirty-nine were found to be decreasing, while five were stationary and twelve were increasing.

The steam yacht Arrow, being built by Lysander Wright, of Newark, for Charles R. Flint, is expected to develop a speed of forty knots an hour.

A seven-story building in Chicago has just been raised with jacks twenty-one and one-half feet without cracking a pane of glass or injuring a wall.

A new line of steamers to ply between Tacoma and Liverpool via the Suez canal, touching at Manila and other Philippine ports, comprising nine ships, is announced.

The British parliament is busy at present in investigating the various electric railway schemes that have been projected in all directions in London since the opening of the Central London Electric Railway.

The experiments tried during the Astante campaign by the British officer with the megaphone for giving orders were unsuccessful, owing to the thick jungle and winding paths preventing the sound from traveling.

An attachment is provided in Sweden by which the secrecy of the telephone line is assured. The apparatus, which is rented at a moderate rate, indicates whether the telephone operator is listening to the conversation or not.

A German society of engineers has in contemplation the preparation of an international technical dictionary, to be published in English, French and German. The object is to secure completeness and identity of meaning in the use of technical words.

Hydraulic pressure is being used at St. Etienne in making steel in molds tapering toward the top by pressure from the bottom instead of from the top of the casting. It is said to produce a more homogeneous steel and give better results generally.

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