THE WORLD OF ELECTRICITY.

London's Electric Lighting System is a Comparatively Crude One.

UNCLE SAM IS FAR IN THE LEAD.

A Man Who Disputes Edison's Claim to the Incandescent-Economy in Electric Railways-The Telephone in Paris.

Ever since the commencement of the great development of the practical application of electricity it has been admitted that the United States has taken and kept the lead, but few except those who have made a careful investigation and the subject are aware how far this country is in advance of Transatlantic nations. Electric lighting in its present convenient and efficient form seems so much a matter of course to the denizens. of large cities that it is difficult for them to realize how inferior are the facilities furnished in the great trade centers of the old world. England has long been admitted to be

the leading country of Europe as regards all applications of machinery, but even the great metropolis of London is electrically worse provided than many American cities of the third class. Oldfashioned apparatus is employed which would not be tolerated in any city of this country, and as far as electric lighting is concerned London is far behind St. Louis. For this condition of affairs the English capitalists and inventors cannot be held responsible, as the amount of red tape and unreasonable restric Jions which retards any attempt o incorporate a novel scheme in an English municipality is something that dwellers in American cities know nothing about. But with all allowances for this disadvantage, it must still remain astonishing to American business men that their English compeers remain so blind to anything that savors of nov-

As regards the manufacture of great lighting systems, the English seem to utterly ignore the advantages incident to electrical apparatus and the management of combination. Instead of the business of manufacturing electric light apparatus being under the control of a few large companies, each making use of one system, the London companies are numerous, and each use several systems, and no two installations are alike. As a consequence ready-made machinery is not kept in stock, and when a part of an apparatus breaks down the damaged portion of the machinery must be manufactured, thus causing great inconvenience and delay. The contrast be-tween the English plan of doing experimental work in commercial stations, volving as it frequently does great delay and heavy cost, and the elaborate and careful laboratory tests of electrical apparatus, and the ready replacement of any injured part, is most striking. The possibilities of the two and three wire direct systems have not been appreciated, the great rivalry being between the alternating current and the storage battery systems.

The English machinists have a great antipathy to the use of leather belts, which results in the almost universal employment of directly coupled engines and dynamos, while very few English dynamos run cold, the iron in some cases being very hot. In the line of incandescent lighting the inhabitants of Loudon are worse served than those of many small American towns. The bright white light so familiar to Americans is unknown to the Londoner. They have to be contented with an unsteady illumination of very low candle power and always of a dull red color. That this state of affairs should exist is nothing so astonishing when some of the limitations placed upon electrie light companies are considered. The maximum price is fixed by law, and no dividends above 8 per cent are allowed without a corresponding decrease in the cost to the consumer. Currents must be furnished at all times, and to all applicants, and nearly all stations have to be placed under ground. The competition eith gas is very trying, as in London gas furnished at 60 cents a thousand, while the cost of the electric light is about equivalent to \$1.50 a thousand.

The "Wizard" Edison's claim to the incandescent light patent is in dispute Before Sudge Ingraham in the supreme court of New York has been begun the ease of W. K. Freeman against the United States electric lighting company In his complaint Freeman avers that he invented the incandescent lamp claimed by Thomas Edison, prior to August, 1878, and sent a lamp to Edison at Menlo Park, N. J.

He then makes the astonishing ass tion that Edison offered him \$50,000 if he would refrain from mentioning or publishing the fact that he was in realty the inventor and had sent a sample lamp to Edison, says a dispatch to the Chicago Tribune. The lamp he claims to have sent to Edison embodies all the features of the incandescent lamp now controlled by Edison. It was an electric lamp consisting of a carbon filament of high resistance secured plat-inum wires and inclosed in a glass globe from which the air had been exhausted. Freeman now claims a residence in this city, but is connected with a business at Eau Claire, Wis. He was at Racine in 1878 when he sent the lamp, as alleged, to Edison, and was subsequently taken into the employ of the defendant's company during a part of the

Mr. Freeman brings his suit against the United States electric lighting company, alleging that a written contract was made with that company in June,

provided that if a patent was obtained on Freeman's alleged inventions which should be superior to the patent which Edison had at that time obtained, the company should have the option of taking it or paying him \$100,000,

No patent was granted to Freeman, claims the company was derelict in pushing his claims for a patent, ac cording to the agreement. He lays his damages at \$250,000, a part of which is for salary due for failure of the company to continue him in its employment as the agreement provided.

Economy in Electric Railways.

Detailed experiments on street railway motors are unfortunately few in number. so that a paper that makes so substantia an addition to our knowledge of the subject as Mr. Hale's discussion deserves more than passing notice, says the Elec-tric World. Mr. Hale directed his experiments to the solution of two most important problems: 1. What is the most economical speed of running? 2. Is it advantageous to use two motors on a single car? His methods of work were good. The car was run over a measured tenth of a mile under various conditions, and readings were taken of time, volts and amperes, thus giving data for both power The result of the station test furnishes food for reflection. The total efficiency from indicated power at the engine to current on the line would

average less than 70 per cent showing is on his way to Madrid, where he will the necessity of working the dynamo as near its rated enpacity as possible. The electrical efficiency of the dynamo is about what was to be expected; but the values given for the motor are decidedly high, probably from underestimated heating. When we take into account the losses from gearing, eddy currents and hysteresis, the commercial efficiency would appear to be somewhere near 80 per cent, possibly a little greater in the case of the single motor. The loss on the line was slight, and a combina-tion of all the varying factors indicates a total commercial effi-ciency of rather less than 50 per cent, a result fully in accord with other determinations. Mr. Hale's test the relative utility of one and two motors is most important and interesting. There has been a growing feeling among students of electric traction that the decision in favor of two motors, made in the early days of the art, when motors were less trustworthy than now, was was somewhat hasty. Mr. Hale's figures fully confirm this suspicion. In using two motors there is only the added friction of a set of gears, but also the difficulty of distributing the load equally between the pair. Even if two motors were practically symmetrical at first, the taking apart and reassembling necessary for repairs would soon establish differences between them. Two driven axles have an advantage over one, however, in hill climbing; and to come to a final decision in the case of a road with heavy grades, experiments with a single motor arranged in some way to drive both

axles are highly desirable. The question of high speed is one to be decided by its practical rather than its electrical merts. Of course this advantage is slight compared with the gain in car mileage. which means greatly increased profits. Mr. Hale's final conclusions are an excellent summing up of his valuable investigation, and are well worth the careful consideration of all who are interested in

the progress of electric traction. Sheep Shearing by Electricity.

A remarkable application of electricity is being made in Australia. The problem of shearing sheep economically and speedily has been solved by the use of the electric motor in conjunction with a new shearing machine invented by Frederick York Wolseley, a brother of the eminent general bearing that name, says the Electrical Review. The method of using the shears is very simple, the operator having merely to throw a friction wheel into adjustment by means of a handle, and then push the comb into the wool, pressing it continuously forward, and keeping it as closely as possible to the body of the animal being operated upon. From one to one hundred shears can be operated at one time, according to the power used. By this mode the shearing is done more mercifully than when done by hand-shears, especially when performed as "piece work." The loss from injuries primarily due to shearing by hand, reckoned at no less than 1 per cent of the animals operated upon, is entirely avoided, while the pelts, being free from cuts, stabs and holes, command a readier and better market. The operators themselves are protected from the numerous self-inflicted injuries to which they are liable when using the ordinary hand-shears, while sore wrists, aching hands, swollen arms, cuts and stabs are now all alike regarded as things of the past. The time occupied in shearing the sheep by the new method is only from three and one-half to five minutes. As the machine takes the whole of the wool off at one operation, all second cuts are avoided, and thus considerable saving in time is effected.

The Telephone in Paris.

The telephone system is, it appears causing very many complaints in Paris, owing mainly to the tardiness with which connections are made, says the Electric World. The new postmaste general, in whose department the tele phone service is now placed, has been in vestigating the trouble, and finds that the frequent delays are due principally to a lack of sufficient trunk wires between the different stations. This defect is now being remedied, and since last September 130 new lines have been constructed; as many more are under way. At the same time the number operators has been increased from 245 to 354, and the enlargement of the force

But the inefficiency of the Parisian system, as compared with some of those most complained of in America, may be judged from the fact that it is seriously proposed to introduce a plan by which persons "too pressed for time to await he making of the connection" may 'leave their messages with the centra operator," to be "transmitted by him when the connection is made." Such a suggestion as this is apt to make us this side of the ocean less critical of the occasional difficulties that interrupt our conversations over the wire.

A New Phonograph.

Two of the principal objections which have been urged against the phonograph and other talking instruments with which the public have become tolerably familiar are the metallic quality of the voice reproduced and the necessity of using hearing tubes avising from the poor volume of the reproduction. Lieutenant Bettini claims that in his micrographophone these difficulties have now been overcome by the employment of several independent diaphragms instead of the one diaphragm of the usual in-strument. It is said that the reproduction of the human voice is singularly clear and free from harshness or metalli sound. By the use of a non-metallic trumpet the tones are still further soft-In reproducing music the notes of different pitch come out with singular distinctness, and, what is a crucial test. the timbre of the voice is admirably preserved. The characteristics of the record are relative loudness and absolute distinctness. Even a whisper is whispered back from the diaphragm very

Boiling Eggs by Electricity.

The novel experiment of boiling eggs by electricity was tried this morning in the office of the Electric supply company, in the Masonic temple, on Third street, says the Cincinnati Times-Star. Of course they were boiled in water, but electricity was the heating agent. Luke Lilley, the city's assistant electrician, was chief cook. Charley Marshal, the underwriter's agent atc the first egg boiled by the agency of the subtle current. It required six ampere (quantity of electricity) and ninety-six volts (pres-sure or force, to accomplish the operation with about two quarts of water in a huge tin cup, the electrical current being connected through the handle of the The news of the egg boiling spread quickly, and as it was about lunch time. brokers, bulls and bears, bankers, insur ance men and lawyers crowded the office. About thirteen dozen eggs were consumed, the only disappointment being that a drink did not go with each egg.

1602. Sixteenth and Farnam streets is the new Rock Island ticket office. Tickets to all points east at lowest rates.

COFFEE IS THEIR KING.

How the People of Central America Are Getting Rich. A. de Castro y Casaleiz, the Spanish minister to Guatemala, was in this city is reco-secently, says the Chicago Tribune. He needs.

enjoy a few months of leisure before returning to his official post. He has been in Central America many years, and is thoroughly acquainted with every re-

"Central America," he said, "is enjoy-ing the height of prosperity. Never has such a bright time been seen in the Spanish-speaking republics as the present. The secret of this state of affairs is that coffee is worth 25 cents a pound and cocon \$1 a pound. It costs about 5 cents a pound to raise coffee in Guatemala. The planters get 25 cents a pound right on the plantation. When you recollect that most of the inhabitants are interested in the raising of coffee, you can ac-

count for this reign of prosperity.
"The best feature of the good times is that the supply of coffee is nowhere near equal to the demand. There are socialists and anarchists down there as well as in Europe and America, but while everyone is making money rapidly there is no time for riots and revolts Affairs are so bright in Central America that the dissatisfied people can get no sympathizers, and they are obliged to abandon any schemes that might find supporters in dull times. The people of Guatemain have the fullest confidence in General Manuel L. Barillas, their president, and he shapes their affairs as if he was planning for one big family. He has done more for the federation movement than any other president, and the citizens appreciate that.
"This union, now announced officially.

is thought to be the best measure for al concerned. It is approved by my country. Spain has no political designs upon any of the Central American countries, and wishes the union the best of success There is some talk now of bringing about a union between the federation and Mexico, but that is looking ahead too far. It is paramount to your ques-tion of annexing Canada."

When the Spanish minister was asked if any progress was being made in bettering the trade relations between the United States and Central America, and if the Pan-American congress had accomplished any good, he said: "The men of Central America who

have money and buy goods are not saying much about the relations of trade The talking is being done by politicians. If you have goods to sell you can go down there and sell them. They are not coming up here for them. I went to one of the biggest plantations in Guatemala one day to ask what the Pan-American congress had accomplished. rich planter had heard something about it, but that was all. 'Don't you expect fruitful results?' I

" 'I have not thought of it,' answered the planter. 'While coffee is bringing in so much money we can't afford to lose

any time in reckoning on the results of a

olan to help our commercial relations.

We are getting along well enough as it "And he was a representative man,

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My stay in India was at a bachelor station. I was there during the hot season, writes a correspondent. The hot winds set in early like a consuming fire. The large double windows stood open all night and were shut up tight in the early morning, the heavy Venetian doors outside the glass doing their best to hermetically seal the interior from the clare and heat.

We had to start for our gallop by 5 o'clock or not get it at all except at the risk of a sunstroke. The courts and public offices opened at 7 and closed for the day before noon. Then each man drove swiftly through the furnace of shimmering air to his darkened and silent home. A lingering bath and a languid break fast brought the hot hours to I o'clock. The slow combustion of the suffocat

ing afternoon was endured somehew under the punka, with the help of the endless bundles of papers in one's office box, read by chance rays which fiercely forced an entrance through every chink in the double windows of glass and wood About 6 o'clock we all met at the racquette court, whose high wall by that time cast a sufficient shadow. A couple of four-handed games left us streaming

damp footprint through our tennis shoes on the pavement. Then the delicious plunge in the swimming bath in the judge's garden, the one moment of freshness looked for ward to throughout the long, exhausting

at every pore and marking at each ster

A cheroot and an iced drink, as we lay. fanned by the servants, on long chairs at the top of the mount-and presently, almost in a minute, the sun had one more hidden its malignant face and the blinding glare had given place to the stiffing stillness of night.

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Ben Franklin's Hat. Who first introduced the tall hat, the

glossy "stovepipe," which today is everywhere considered an indispensable part of a gentleman's attire? No less a personage than Benjamin Franklin, philospher, printer and sage. Few persons would have suspected Poor Richard of this, but it is the fact, and it came about in this wise, says the

New York Morning Journal: On April 11, 1790, Franklin arrived in Coming as he did from the land of republican revolution to the land which had been instrumental in aiding American independence, and which was itself on the verge of the most colossal revolution of modern times, every act of his, every minute detail of his dress was carefully examined and criticised.

Franklin wore the hat of the quakers of Philadelphia. It was very much like the "stovepipe" of today, except that it was lower in the crown and its brim was much broader.

It was laughed at a little by the dandies of Paris, but three days after Frank-lin's arrival the Parisan hatters had similar hats in their windows, and decorated them with the name of the illustrious American,
The leaders in the French Revolution

at once adopted the hat, and it thus became the emblem of revolt in Europe. The aristocracy of course fought against the new frshion, but finally it began to make its way. The brim grew narrower, the cylinder higher, until the stovepipe of modern times was evolved from the Quaker headgear of Ben Franklin.

But because the French Revolutionists had worn it, this hat was prohibited in Germany until after 1840.

Now there is scarcely any country in Europe or on the American Continent where the tall hat is not worn. Even the solemn Turk and the decrous Greek "mount tiles" when they put on European dress.

Platt's Chlorides as a Disinfectant is recommended as just what every family

TURNS OF FORTUNE'S WHEEL,

How the Great Mexican National Lottery Is Managed.

A Prize of \$120,000 Engerly Sought for While Small Fortunes of \$40,-000 and Less Are Not Disregarded-Scrupulous Fairness of the Drawings Under Strict Governmental Superv sich -A Shower of Wealth.

[FROM OUR REGULAR COHRESPONDENT.] CITY OF MEXICO, May 10, 1800.—On Monday morning last the 420,000 Inhabitants of this tropical metropolis were awakened by the sooming of cannon, the peals of innumerable bells, while mingling with these sounds of national rejoicing were heard the blare of bogles, and, now and then, the strains of martlal music. It was the Cinco de Mayo, the 5th of May, the greatest of Mexican holidays. which commemorates the triumph of Mexican arms over the French invader on the heights of Puebla. All the cityful of peeple awoke with one thought: "It is the day of the drawing of the grand prize in the Mexican National Beneficiencia Publica Lettery." Those who had not bought their tickers already now seriously bestirred themselves. All sorts and conditions of men, and of women too, were calling for their servants to run out to the street to buy a ticket in the "Beneficiencia," and there was a rush all the morning to obtain the coveted passports to fortune. Those

At still another desk sat the recording clerks, who made up slips of drawings, which immediup complete, aimost simultaneously with the at the wheels ready for the signal of a blackeyed, genial faced gentleman, who presided at the central desk. This official was Mr. U. Bas-setti, vice president and manager of the lot-tery company a man of large executive ability, scrupulous fairness, and held in great esteem in this city by our best people.

As the clock struck II, a camen boomed out-side and Mr. Bassetti lifted a little beli, tinkled it, and the great wheel containing 80,000 little cylinders began to revolve ponder-ously.

che, representing the treasury depart ment, ately were handed to the compositors in a minis-ture printing office near the platform. In this way the long lists of drawings were to be set conclusion of the drawings. Stout men stood eyed, genial faced gentleman, who presided at

of the amounts of the prizes. The greater wheel was of metal with glass sides, through which one could see \$0.000 little rubber cylinders, inside each of which was a little pinkish ticket bearing the number of a ticket. In the \$0.000 little rubber cylinders, inside each of which was a little pinkish ticket bearing the number of a ticket. In the \$0.000 little rubber cylinders, each of which contained a ticket on which was inscribed the explination of a prize. How innocent those little cylinders of rubber locked, while slily hidden among them was all that

Gittering, Alfuring Pr z of \$120,000 a foriume for the lucky winner, and in addition to that resplondent ticket, a bushel of others bearing amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$40. Beside each wheel stood a biindfolded boy, a mere lad, and between the wheels a desk at which sat clerks, and at the other near by desks, where every movement could be watched, the representatives of the Mexican national government, Mr. Apolinar Castilo, the intervenor, and J. Pedro Penlace the famous and unhealthy prison of licker, representing the treasury depart ment.

Gen. Envious Auxilio and Chill-pancingo, Mex.

It is a curious fact that Mexicans are addicted largely to the purchase of whole tlekets, while in the United States the people go in for fracional parts. When a Mexican buys a test that a lottery, he desires if he be able, to stand a chance of a fortune coming to him "de un golpe" at a stroke. American tourists ment of a lone dollar is the usual thing.

The Loteria de la Beneficencia was carriy as in olden times the New England states established lotteries for all sortes of this company was purchased by the Mexican international Improvement Company, and extensively unrended. The new company pays the Charity Hospital of this city, a most useful institution, \$90,000.000. The president of the company is

Gen. Enrique A. Mexia,

me of the two Mexican delegates to the Pan-American congress, a gentleman greatly respected here, whose name is an assurance of good faith. The vice president and manager ls, as stated, Mr. U. Bassettl, a gentleman of large business experience, and conspicuous for exactness and careful attention to the for exactness and careful attention to the needs of his company, be ides being a polished and experienced man of the world, a linguist and traveler in all quarters of the globe. The consulting attorney of the company is a distinguished Mexican citizen, atthough his name is decidedly. British, Hon, A. Laneaster Jones, a somator of the republic and a leading lawyer of this city. The Loteria Benificencia, or Mexican National, is the great lottery of Mexico, and must not be confused with mere provincial and state lotteries hearing a similar name; the one here described is extablished in the capital of the republic, and all its drawings are under the direct supervi-

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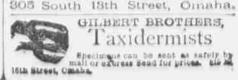
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do, since a friend of mine has once drawn \$4000, a year later \$10,000, and, not long ago, bought from a friend of his a ticket which won that backy mortal a clean \$100,000. Then,

too, I know a young man who Never Fails to Get a Prize, and his lists of winnings through a series of years is something formidable. His method? It is to buy of the first man or woman he meets who offers a ticket. Nothing more neets who offers a ticket. Nothing more
Imple.

Quite early in the forencon out came the \$120,000 prize, and the magic number, "54,700, was put on the blackboard. Somebow the

hausted.

I recall that I had in my pocket a ticket numbered 37,519, and when Mr. Bassetti took a bit of chalk in his hand, and amouncing that a prize of \$20,000 had come out of the wheels, I watched his ready fingers inscribing the number of fate on a blackboard hung in plain view. He began with a 3 slight increase of my pulse, then came a 7 perceptible thumping of the heart), and then came-well, certain figures which didn't a bit interest me. But I had had a shot at fortune, and a fair one, and was well content. well content.



leo, then you cannot realize how much a part of our daily lives the great Beneficencia lottery is. Ticket sellers are on every corner they interrupt your reverle over a favorite book in your customary scatter the Alamedathey approach you at the window or the street car; they enter your house, and they tumbed down on you from the skies. There is no escaping their influence; sober New England editors have I seen to stop, on the streets of this ancient town and buy at elect in the Benedic and no tourist forgets to try his looked up from their desks relieved at the effective and the growth of the prize wheel, and the tred clerks and the growth and the growth of the prize wheel, and the tred clerk and editors have I seen to stop, on the streets of this ancient town and buy at elect in the effective wheel, and the tred clerk and editors have I seen to stop, on the street of this ancient town and buy at elect in the clottery; and you know when to stop, which is not always the case in buying stocks on margins. Here there is no. "rigged market," no rascently wall street operator watching the lottery; and you know when to stop, which is not always the case in buying stocks on margins. Here there is no. "rigged market," no rascently wall street operator watching the lottery; and you know for for the pair of the prize of the lottery; and the lightning of rood fortune may strike you; if not, you console yourself thinking of the good fortune of some person who many need to be a street of the pair of the pair of the case of the pair of the of our daily lives the great Beneficencia lot tery is. Ticket sellers are on every corner; they interrupt your reverle over a favorite

crowd did not care to remain, and many went out. It was whispered that the prize had partly fallen here in Mexico, which excited fond hopes in the breasts of many tickethold-ers. About I o'clock the last cylinder came out of the prize wheel, and the tired clerks



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