EVERY DAY SCIENCE.

A Very Practical Use of the Phonograph Bound to be Made Soon.

TESTS OF STRENGTH OF BRIDGES.

The Electrical Transmission of Water Power Trials in Germany.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Readers of THE DISPATCH who desire information on subjects relating to industrial development and progress in mechanical, civil and electrical engineering and the sciences can have their queries answered through this column.

[PREPARED FOR THE DISPATCH.]

The question whether the practical everyday utility of the phonograph is likely to prove, after all, of much importance, has been very freely discussed, and the result is a decided difference of opinion. There is no doubt, however, that one of its latest applications, though it may be confined to a somewhat restricted field, is of great importance to the engineering world. It is admitted that the life of an iron or steel bridge cannot be indefinitely prolonged, and yet engineers do not possess any completely satisfactory method of determining the actual condition of these structures, on the strength of which so much depends. So long as no actual deformation has taken place, the iron may here or there be assuming a crystalline condition, or may be seriously oxidized underneath the coating of paint, and yet the extent of the evil can easily remain undiscovered. It is now proposed to employ the phonograph in connection with a microphone and telephone to register the nature of the vibrations of the bridge as a whole, or in sections under a rolling load, and to preserve the record for comparison with subsequent tests carried on at regular intervals. The direct comparison of two phonographic records cannot be carried out with sufficient accuracy, and an optical method is therefore employed and a beam of light is reflected from the vibrating plate after the manner of the well-known Lissajou's figures. It would, of course, be necessary to secure a long series of such records before the results would be capable of complete interpretation, but there seems good reason to believe that by this means reliable indications of a change in the molecular structure of the material can be obtained.

Subway Explosions.

The *Mining Journal*, in discussing the report recently presented to the Board of Electrical Control, on the subway explosions, by Commissioners Gilroy and Gibbens, makes some pertinent suggestions which may possibly be of value to other citizens besides those of New York. He recommends that the gas mains be taken out of the manhole, and that the manholes be covered with light fastenings and hinged so as to blow open easily. He says: "Abandon your silly system of house connections, by which open pipes may at any moment, through accident or carlessness, connect a citizen's cellar with the conduit air, or the cellar air, or the sewer air of a whole block. Whether this common air atmosphere be inflammable or explosive, or poisonous or malodorous merely it is not wholesome. Haul off your blowers, except for local and temporary uses. Send your sub-committee over to the slow city of Brooklyn with instructions to inquire into the obscure but pertinent fact that somehow or other these Brooklyn subways are not explosively conspicuous, although there is plenty of gas in the Brooklyn soil." He further advises a visit to the Telephone Exchange building, and an investigation into the method by which exemption from escaping gas in its basement is attained. This method is simple and easy. When a cable is taken from a subway it is run up through a box which acts as a chimney, and the small amount of gas which may leak into the conduit leaks out again up the chimney

Ammonia as an Antiseptic.

Some years ago Dr. B. W. Richardson, in a communication to the Medical Society, called attention to the anti-putrescent properties of ammonia, and showed that blood, milk, and other alternable liquids could be preserved for a long time by adding to them certain quantities of solution of ammonia, and solid substances, such as flesh, by keeping them in closed vessels filled with ammonia gas. Some doubts that were raised as to the results reported, on the ground that ammonia was itself a product of decomposition, induced Dr. Gottbrecht, of the University of Greisswald, to repeat the experiments, with the result of practically confirming all Dr. Richardson's statements.

Dr. Gottbrecht showed that in an atmosphere impregnated with ammonium carbonate meat could be kept for six months, and at the end of that time would remain nearly unaltered. He also discusses the conditions under which products of putrefaction may act prejudicially to the originators of the putrefaction. This he believes to be due to a toxic action dependent on the degree of concentration. He points out that cadaveine, a product of decomposition of a cadaver, in certain degrees of concentration acts as a direct poison upon the abscess cocous, and he concludes that, similarly, all products of tissue change in living organisms can become noxious to their originators as soon as their quantity exceeds a certain limit.

Electrical Transmission of Water Power.

If the project relating to a new canal at Rheinfelden, Germany, be carried out, an enormous stimulus will be given to electrical engineering, since the power rendered available through the construction of this canal will amount to not less than 11,000-horse power, and will have to be transmitted electrically to Basel, Sackingen and other distant places. The plans are ready, the capital is available, but the concession has not yet been obtained. If it is obtained in time, work will begin in the coming autumn, and the whole undertaking will be completed in 1891. The length of the canal is 1¾ miles, its width 165 feet, and there will be erected a turbine house containing 23 turbines, each of 750-horse power. Each turbine will drive its own generator. The pressure adopted will be sufficiently high to enable the distribution of power to be effected economically within a distance of 15 miles. The power of the turbines being 17,000-horse power, a total of 11,000-horse power will be available to the consumers.

The Merit of English Civil Engineering.

One of the American engineers who took the recent trip to Europe, in speaking of the Mersey tunnel, which connects Liverpool and Birkenhead, says: "It is quite admirable as a piece of engineering, and very convenient for the two cities. If England had four cities like New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Hoboken in such close proximity as we have, she would have had them connected by tunnels long ago. In great works of civil engineering, especially for municipal convenience, the English are ahead of us—not from superior ability as engineers, for we can build just as fine works as they can, but there the civic authorities are more progressive and far-sighted than here; they have more money possibly, or they are more willing to tax the public for improvements for the public benefit; but they do seem to give more employment to the civil engineers than we do.

Erosions Due to Wind Action.

M. Contejean describes, before the Paris Academy of Sciences, how, during a recent visit to Corinth, he discovered a remarkable instance of erosion caused by wind action. On a neighboring plateau was an old amphitheater some 15 meters from the edge of the escarpment, which communicated with the beach through a cavern with wide openings at both ends, and above which the limestone rock formed a natural bridge. The walls of this cavern, which was formed in the sandstone stratum at the foot of the cliff, were extremely rugged and irregularly corroded, and nowhere showed traces of human workmanship. The tunnel could not possibly have been excavated either by the rains or the running waters, and its existence can be explained only by the action of the sands playing on a point of least resistance under the influence of the fierce Northern gales prevalent in this region.

Revival of Interest in Gas Fields.

Interest in the gas fields of West Bloomfield, Ontario county, N. Y., seems to be reviving. Twenty years ago the first well was struck, and burned away without being utilized. Five or six years ago pipes were laid to Niagara Falls and West Bloomfield, and the gas extensively used for heating. The supply, however, was insufficient and the well was partially abandoned. A new company is now taking up leases and drilling wells to the number of 25. The gas strikes are made at about 400. The well is shot with nitro-glycerine and measured by stove power, the ordinary one supplying fuel for 30 stoves. The country from Canandaigua to Lima is also being prospected.

Rapid Ship-Loading Device.

Great progress has been made of late in promoting dispatch in the loading of ships. The great elevator built on the quay at Lulea, by the Swedish-Norwegian Railway Company, for loading iron direct into ships has just been finished and its operation is reported a success, the elevator raising three trucks simultaneously in two minutes, the same being moved along the rails to chutes leading into the hold of the ship and emptied. The whole arrangement is said to be so perfect that a ship of some 2,500 tons may be loaded in a day. In the engine room are two engines of 60-horse power each, steam being supplied by three boilers.

Train Tell-Tale.

The new train tell-tale, or self-recording instrument for railway trains, of Prof. Milne, has been working satisfactorily in Japan and in this country, and arrangements are being made for having it tried on some of the English and Scotch lines. This instrument shows when a train stops, for how long, and whether at a station, signal or siding. It indicates also the upward and downward vibrations due to the condition of the permanent way, and points out the defects in bridges, sleepers and ballast, as well as vibrations due to the oscillation of the train.

Phonograph Box.

The patenting of a phonogram receiving box is another step in the practical application of the phonograph to business purposes. This box is designed to receive wax phonogram cylinders, and adapted for conveniently storing and fitting the phonogram and preventing it from being injured on its delicate periphery while being stored and transported, the box having a cover and a circular offset held concentric in the box in which the cylinder is placed. The cover locking the cylinder is placed on the offset.

Perverted Art.

A German merchant discovered, during the recent fair at Nishni-Novgorod, Russia, that the turquoises offered for sale by the Persian traders in those stones were nearly all false. These rogues have been imposing paste upon their customers for the last six or seven years, and it is estimated that out of 100,000 turquoises which have been sold during that period not more than 10,000 were genuine stones. The imitations are described as marvelously clever.

New Uses for Cocoanut Oil.

It is found that cocoanut oil is not only an excellent lubricant, but it is of great value for lighting purposes. A Frenchman in Cuba has just established a factory for the manufacture of this oil. He has imported the most perfect machinery, in order that the oil produced shall be as pure as possible. The oil is very fluid, oxidizes slowly, and is said to keep long without turning rancid.

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SECRET SOCIETIES.

C. M. B. A. Notes.

—A meeting will be held at Noblestown on Sunday, September 8, to start a branch.

—On Friday evening, No. 66, the new branch of St. John the Baptist parish will meet to elect officers.

—Next Wednesday evening the new branch (No. 67) of St. Andrew's parish, Allegheny, will meet to elect officers.

—A meeting will be held at Dunbar, Fayette county, to-day at 12:30, to start a branch. It will be addressed by the Grand Deputy of Pittsburg, and the District Deputy of Connellsville.

—Last Monday evening Branch No. 65 was instituted in St. Mary's parish, First ward, by Grand Deputy J. W. Sullivan, assisted by Supreme Deputy August Bonnatt, of Louisville, O., and others. The following were installed: President, Thomas J. Donohoe; First Vice President, Martin L. Howe; Second Vice President, M. L. Doherty; Recording Secretary, M. J. McMahon; Assistant Recording Secretary, J. P. Jones; Financial Secretary, Isaac Maraux; Treasurer, Henry Ersman; Marshal, Thomas Foley; Guard, P. Connelly; Trustees, John King, M. J. McMahon, James McEvoy, J. Rouquey, Isaac Maraux. Their next meeting will be Friday, September 6.

Heptasophs.

—The eleventh anniversary of the order was fitly observed by a banquet at John Dimling's parlors, August 28. About 60 members participated.

—The Allegheny County Heptasoph Association held an interesting meeting during the week. Several members were elected. A special meeting will be held on Thursday evening, September 4, to reorganize the degree corps for the coming winter.

—Charles E. Cornelius, Deputy of district No. 2, has appointed Wednesday, September 18, to officially visit East End Conclave, No. 79. He will be accompanied by the resident supreme officers, deputies and other members of the order. The Degree Corps will also accompany him and confer the degree on several applicants for membership.

Scottish Clan.

—Clan Macpherson No. 59, Allegheny, of the Order of Scottish Clans of America, is rapidly growing in numbers, having upward of 50 insurance member, besides a few local beneficial clansmen. Initiations are held monthly, and on September 25 a batch of applicants will be admitted. The clan meets in Engineers' Hall, 19 Federal street, every two weeks, and is the first subordinate clan in this State. Arrangements are pending for the institution of new clans in Lawrenceville, Southside, Braddock and McKeesport. The order is on a basis similar to the Royal Arcanum.

Knights of Pythias.

The knights of Armory Lorena Division No. 85, U. R. K. of P., Allegheny, are directed by special order No. 5 to assemble at their armory on Thursday, September 5, at 12:30 P. M. sharp, in full dress uniform. This being the occasion of our joint reunion picnic with McCall Division No. 32, it is expected that every Sir Knight will report for duty promptly.

Jr. O. U. A. M.

—Pride of the West Council No. 157 have issued handsome invitations for their fourteenth anniversary reception, at Union Rink, next Friday evening, September 6.

NEW chintzes; indigo blues and fancies.
ENABLE & SHUSTER,
35 Fifth avenue.
MWSu

BEST value ever shown in silk trimming velvets; 50c a yard, 65 colorings.
HUGUS & HACKE.

When baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria

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TRADE AND GOSSIP.

What Energetic Business Men Are Thinking About and Doing.

SOME BIG THINGS ON THE STRING.

A Large Manufacturing Plant and a Fine Summer Hotel Bobbing Up.

BUSY TIMES AMONG THE BUILDERS

Two gentlemen were closeted with a Fourth avenue real-estate dealer for several hours yesterday. They were iron manufacturers, and were negotiating for a site whereon to erect a plant to cost $400,000. This is not rumor, but fact. Details cannot be given, but it may be stated that the deal has gone far enough to insure its completion at an early day. The same agent has another transaction of a similar kind on hand, in a neighboring town, but involving considerably less money. The principals are Pittsburg men.

* * *

The Building Inspectors were busy yesterday issuing permits. The largest one was taken out by James Dilworth, for a $31,000 residence at Fifth avenue and Barton street. The next largest issued during the week was to W. F. Casey, for eight two-story and mansard brick and stone dwellings on Fifth avenue, Fourteenth ward, to cost $28,000. Doerflinger & Fisher are to build a block of eight houses on Cliff street, in the Eleventh ward, at a cost of $20,000. Mrs. M. Hays was authorized to erect a brick two-story residence on Hiland avenue. It will cost her $10,000. J. M. McCance will build a brick dwelling on Dithridge street, in the Fourteenth ward, to cost $10,000. Mrs. Annie Jack got permission to erect a brick dwelling on Fifth avenue, in the Twentieth ward, which will also cost $10,000. Thomas Hackett was granted a permit for a brick four-story house on Fifth avenue, Sixth ward, for which he will pay $9,800. The Standard Underground Cable Company will put up a two-story brick structure on Sixteenth street, Tenth ward, at a cost of $6,000. The number of permits issued during the week was 67, representing an outlay approximating $239,351. Pittsburg is growing.

* * *

There were no extraordinary developments in the local business situation last week. There was a small shrinkage in the volume of transactions, as compared with previous weeks, but coming at the dullest time of the year it should occasion no alarm. Under the stimulus of large crops and abundance of money, trade will soon emerge from the rut. Locally, as well as generally, the conditions are favorable for an early improvement. So long as there is a good iron market, and the mills are kept busy, dullness can find no peg upon which to hang itself. As Pittsburg is not a debtor, but a creditor, the flow of money is steadily in this direction. This is an advantage of which few other cities can boast. Failures are few and collections easy.

* * *

Two well known capitalists are figuring on the purchase of the Hampton homestead, near Wilkinsburg, at a price somewhat above $50,000. If they go through with it, they will build a fine hotel, to be used chiefly as a summer resort, though it would not lack patronage in the winter. The grounds are large, well improved, and admirably adapted to the purpose in view. A hotel there would supply a long felt want, and no doubt be profitable to the promoters.

* * *

Mr. John Howley, the real estate dealer, in speaking yesterday of the recent purchase by the H. C. Frick Coke Company of the large coke plants of Schoonmaker and Moore, said that he noticed a statement made by some of the papers that all the available coking coal had been bought by the H. C. Frick Company, which is not the case, as he is in a position to offer several tracts of the best coking coal, equal to any in the Connellsville region, on very favorable terms. The recent move of the H. C. Frick Company has already awakened considerable interest and inquiry on the part of furnacemen, who are large consumers of coke.

* * *

The Pennsylvania Railroad has done an enormous business this summer, and is still crowded to its utmost capacity. Passenger traffic has been enormous. An employe of the road remarked yesterday: "I have been on the road for a number of years, and have never known traffic to be so heavy as it is this summer. Indeed, the extra passenger business alone has almost wiped out the heavy losses caused by the Johnstown disaster. Stockholders need have no fear for their dividend."

* * *

There is a lively demand for boxes in the big vault of the Fidelity Title and Trust Company, and another thousand or so will be put in soon to supply the want. Speaking of business, an official of the company remarked: "We are doing splendidly—much better than we expected. We have completed several important transactions and have others on hand, but they are not quite ready for publication. The prospect for a heavy fall trade is excellent. I think the flurry about tight money is over for the season, and that the financial wheels will run smoothly the rest of the year."

* * *

The drygoods trade of Pittsburg is very heavy this season. This city has within a few years become an important center of this business, and more territory is being covered this year than ever before. Country orders for fall fabrics are coming in quite freely, and the work of distribution is being pushed with the utmost vigor. A leading wholesaler remarked yesterday that he would not be surprised if the sales this year reached the large aggregate of $25,000,000.

* * *

Edgewood is growing at a rate which will soon place it in the first rank of towns on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Nearly all of the vacant lots have been bought up, and will be built on this season or next. It is one of the finest residence sections in the East End. Concerning the borough scheme, a citizen of the place said yesterday: "We propose to let it rest for awhile. There is some opposition to the project now, and if pushed it might be defeated. The town is growing so fast that a borough will soon be necessary. When the time comes we will push the scheme through."

* * *

Mills may stop and firms may fail, but our foreign trade continues to show a marked and gratifying improvement. The report for July is more favorable at all points than the country has seen in any July of recent years. The imports of merchandise amount to $70,778,606, a level which has not been touched in any previous month since April, 1880, when merchandise to the value of $74,366,455 came in. Last year the imports of merchandise in July stood $59,380,645, and the average for the month in the previous five years, 1883 to 1887, was but $61,693,722. Thus, this year the imports in July are $11,397,961 larger than in July, 1888, and $16,084,884 larger than the average for the month in the previous five years. August will make nearly as good a record as July. This is an improvement that the country can afford to lean upon.

MORE FIGURES THAN BUSINESS.

La Noria Holds the Fort—Other Stocks Dull and Steady.

La Noria was the only active stock yesterday. The decree has gone forth, remarked a broker, that it shall not go below 1¾, nor much above 1⅞, at present, and the manner in which it is handled about seems to justify the remark. While the rest of the list was dull, there was a marked increase in the feeling of confidence in an early improvement, which has been a conspicuous feature of the market throughout the month.

There was the usual Saturday demand for bank and insurance stocks, and the trend was toward a higher level of values. The market closed firm. Bids, offers and sales are appended:

EXCHANGE STOCK.

	Bid.	Asked.
Pitts. Pet., S. and M. Exchange	455	460

BANK STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Arsenal	65	....
Allegheny National Bank	62¾	....
Bank of Pittsburg	74	....
Commercial National Bank	....	100
Citizens' National Bank	62½	....
Diamond National Bank	100	....
Duquesne National Bank	155	....
Exchange National Bank	81¼	....
Farmers' Deposit National Bank	400	....
First National Bank, Pittsburg	170	....
Fourth National Bank	130	....
Fifth Avenue	42	....
Freehold Bank	84¼	....
Fidelity Title and Trust Co.	....	130
Iron City National Bank	92	....
Iron and Glass Dollar Savings	199	....
Keystone Bank of Pittsburg	65	....
Masonic Bank	....	....
Merchants & Manufacturers' Nat. Bank	61¼	....
Metropolitan National Bank	94	....
Monongahela National Bank	168	....
Odd Fellows' Savings Bank	67	....
Pittsburg Nat. Bank of Commerce	230	....
People's Savings Bank of Pittsburg	105	....
Third National Bank	161	....
Tradesmen's National Bank	225	....
Union National Bank	205	....
German National, Allegheny	150	....
Real Estate Loan and Trust Co.	80	....
Second National Bank, Allegheny	180	....
Third National, Allegheny	135	....
Workingman's Savings	72	....

INSURANCE STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Allegheny Insurance Co.	51	....
Allemannia	43½	....
Bostman's	28	....
Birmingham	40	....
Citizens	30½	37½
German American	51	....
Humboldt	45	48
Teutonia	51	....
Union	42	....
Western Insurance Co.	50	....

GAS STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Allegheny Gas Co. (Illum.)	38	....
Consolidated Gas Co. (Illum.)	38	....
East End Gas Co. (Illum.)	53	....
Pittsburg Gas Co. (Illum.)	62	....
Southside Gas Co. (Illum.)	....	25

NATURAL GAS STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Chartiers Valley Gas Co.	49	50½
Natural Gas Co. of W. Va.	79	85
People's Nat. Gas and Pipe Co.	17½	....
Pennsylvania Gas Co.	15	....
Philadelphia Co.	27¼	27¾
Wheeling Gas Co.	30½	....

OIL COMPANY STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Forest Oil Co.	103	....
Tuna Oil Co.	....	68
Washington Oil Co.	85	....

INCLINE PLANES.

	Bid.	Asked.
Monongahela Incline	55	....

PASSENGER RAILWAY STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Central Traction	31½	32
Citizens' Traction	69½	70½
Pittsburg Traction	....	50
Pleasant Valley	....	201
Pittsburg, Allegheny and Manchester	....	249

RAILROAD STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Allegheny Valley	1	....
Chartiers Railway	42	....
Pitts., Youngstown & Ashtabula R. R.	....	81¾
Pitts., Cin. & St. Louis R. R.	....	20½
Pitts., Va. & Charleston R. R. Co.	38	....
Pitts. & Western R. R. Co.	12½	12¾
Pitts. & Western R. R. Co. pref.	19	20

COAL STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
New York and Cleveland Coal Co.	....	30

BRIDGE STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Monongahela Bridge	20	....
Pittsburg & Birmingham Bridge	72	....
Point Bridge	3¼	....
Point Bridge, pref.	18	....
Union Bridge	15	....

MINING STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Charlotte Mining Co.	¼	....
Hidalgo Mining Co.	....	2½
La Noria Mining Co.	1½	1⅞
Silverton Mining Co.	....	1
Yankee Girl Mining Co.	1¼	....

ELECTRIC LIGHT STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Allegheny County Electric	....	100
Westinghouse Electric	51¼	51½

MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.
New Castle Water Co.	....	30
Union Switch and Signal Co.	22¾	....
Westinghouse Air Brake Co.	....	116
Westinghouse Brake Co., Lim.	60	64

The sales were 100 shares of La Noria at 1¾, 400 at 1¾; and 5 of Central Traction at 32. F. J. Morris & Co. sold 200 shares of La Noria at 1⅞, and a small lot of Union Switch at 22¾. H. M. Long bought 30 shares of Westinghouse Electric at 51½, and sold 50 shares of Switch and Signal at 22¾. John D. Bailey sold 150 shares Philadelphia Company at 37⅝, and 200 shares La Noria at $1 60. W. H. Watt sold 150 shares Philadelphia Company at 37¼.

The total sales of stocks at New York yesterday were 113,515 shares, including: Atchison, 12,600; Hocking Valley, 4,900; Louisville and Nashville, 4,100; Northwest, 3,500; Northern Pacific preferred, 9,487; Oregon Transcontinental, 2,200; Reading, 4,500; St. Paul, 25,100; Western Union, 2,200.

ENCOURAGING FIGURES.

Gains Over Last Year Show a Healthy Condition of Trade.

Clearing House figures continue to show gains over the corresponding period of last year. Although the week's record falls a few thousands below that of the same time in 1888, the month shows an increase of over $2,000,000. This does very well, when it is considered that it represents legitimate business, the speculative element being too small to merit attention. While the gain is smaller than that of previous months, it is in the right direction, and shows that the great financial, manufacturing and commercial interests of the city are in a healthy and vigorous condition. The report for the day, week, month and year to date is as follows:

Exchanges	$ 1,592,950 99
Balances	382,277 53
Exchanges for the week	11,245,686 26
Balances for the week	2,630,998 82
Exchanges week of 1888	11,030,846 73
Balances week of 1888	2,953,644 62
Exchanges last week	11,277,777 48
Balances last week	2,132,898 85
Total exchanges, 1889	423,416,627 51
Total exchanges, 1888	381,645,281 32
Gain, 1889 over 1888	41,781,356 22
Exchanges for August	50,383,079 31
Balances for August	10,017,694 47
Exchanges for August, 1888	48,161,672 62
Balances for August, 1888	10,696,665 31

Money on call at New York yesterday was easy at 3 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 5@7. Sterling exchange quiet but steady at $4 83¼ for 60-day bills and $4 87½ for demand.

The weekly statement of the New York banks, issued yesterday, shows the following changes: Reserve, increase, $2,438,975; loans, decrease, $6,247,000; specie, increase, $1,687,500; legal tenders, decrease, $97,200; deposits, decrease, $3,394,700; circulation, increase, $5,530. The banks now hold $4,504,975 in excess of the 25 per cent rule.

Closing Bond Quotations.

U. S. 4s, reg	127	M. K. & T. Gen. 5s	87½
U. S. 4s, coup	123	Mutual Union 6s	101
U. S. 4½s, reg	108¾	N. J. C. Int. Cert	112¾
U. S. 4½s, coup	109¾	Northern Pac. 1st	119¾
Pacific 6s '95	118	Northern Pac. 2ds	115
Louisiana stamped 4s	89¾	North'n'n consols	146
Missouri 6s	100¾	Oregon Imp. deben's	107
Tenn. new set. 6s	106	Oregon & Trans. 6s	105
Tenn. new set. 5s	101	St. L. & I. M. Gen. 5s	86½
Tenn. new set. 3s	73½	St. L. & S. F. Gen. 6s	116
Canada So. 2ds	99¾	St. Paul consols	126
Cen. Pacific 1sts	114	St. P., Chi. & P. 1sts	118½
Den. & R. G. 1sts	121	Tex., Pac. L. G. Tr. Rs	10¾
Erie, 2ds	73	Tex., Pac. R. G. Tr. Rcts	38¾
D. & R. G. West, 1sts	105	Union Pac. 1sts	114
Erie, 2ds	103¾	West Shore	106
M. K. & T. Gen. 6s	63		

Government and State bonds dull and featureless.

NEW YORK—Bank clearings to-day, $134,483,880; balances, $6,010,937. For the week—Clearings, $626,889,163; balances, $37,199,152.

BOSTON—Bank clearings to-day, $15,001,664; balances, $1,978,638. For the week—Clearings, $72,124,227; balances, $9,538,176. For corresponding week last year—Clearings, $67,543,562; balances, $9,853,789. For month—Clearings, $236,111,882; balances, $40,461,114. For corresponding month last year—Clearings, $334,792,365; balances, $43,828,423.

PHILADELPHIA—Bank clearings, $11,824,487; balances, $1,656,824. For week—Clearings, $62,030,381; balances, $9,089,011.

BALTIMORE—Bank clearings, $1,730,297; balances, $224,820.

LONDON—The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to-day is £50,000. Bar silver, 42⅛d per ounce.

PARIS—Three per cent rentes, 85f 32½c for the account.

CHICAGO—Money unchanged. Bank clearings, $9,501,000.

ST. LOUIS—Clearings, $2,728,698; balances, $569,380. For this week—Clearings, $17,703,298; balances, $4,070,923. For last week—Clearings, $18,467,914; balances, $3,992,930. For last year—Clearings, $16,371,473; balances, $2,379,303. For this month—Clearings, $81,880,657; balances, $14,945,215. For August, 1888—Clearings, $75,320,074; balances, $10,987,847.

IN A COMATOSE CONDITION.

Petroleum Winds Up the Week Without a Redeeming Feature.

The petroleum market was without a single redeeming feature yesterday, trading being light, fluctuations narrow and prices weak. There was no field or other news of importance. The market opened at 98¾, the top figure of the day, from which it declined to 98, the lowest and closing quotation. The apathy of the traders was attributed to the fact that it was the last day of the month and that a holiday would ensue before the next meeting. Aside from this, however, the trade showed that it was hopelessly handicapped. A new deal is necessary to save it from total collapse.

A New York expert says: "One of the features of the petroleum situation is the absence of speculation in certificates among the producers in the West. Those who in the past have been heavy dealers in a speculative way in the crude market, now decline, as the result no doubt, of some costly experience, to speculate as they have in the past, and it is the part of wisdom for producers to confine their energies to what may be regarded as their legitimate sphere, production, and trust to legitimate demand to advance prices rather than to push them up by speculation in their own product. As refined petroleum is the product into which practically all the crude enters, it would seem that prosperity in the refined trade should bring a relative prosperity in the crude. If this were so there can be little doubt but that the movement of prices of crude in the last half of 1889 would surpass the best figures of 1888 and 1887. The refined trade is in a most satisfactory condition. There is a good healthy export demand, which has not been in the least restrained by the advance of 30 points within the last four weeks.

"The terror of Russian competition was virtually destroyed in 1888. The European market has bought freely of American oil during the present year, simply for the reason that consumers who purchased Russian refined in 1887 were not satisfied with the product. The export movement from the United States to various countries shows that America has regained the markets of Europe outside of Great Britain and Ireland, and that excluding China and the Britain possessions in Australia, there had been no important losses to our export trade in the countries most contiguous to the source of Russian supply, the British East Indies actually showing a decided increase. Tank steamers formerly employed in the Russian trade have been pressed into the America service, and the Russian pipe line project has received fresh discouragement from the Government, whose interests are centered in the Transcaucasian Railroad. The Russian wells are constantly requiring deeper drilling; and the Baku deposits have been showing the same characteristics of decline that always attend 'gusher' pools."

Features of the Market.

Corrected daily by John M. Oakley & Co., 45 Sixth street, members of the Pittsburg Petroleum Exchange.

Opened	98¾	Lowest	98
Highest	98¾	Closed	98

	Barrels.
Average runs	81,930
Average shipments	79,509
Average charters	47,845

Refined, New York, 7.20c.
Refined, London, 5¾d.
Refined, Antwerp, 17½f.
Refined, Liverpool, 6½d.

A. B. McGrew & Co. quote: Puts, 96⅞c; calls, 99c.

Other Oil Markets.

OIL CITY, August 31.—National transit certificates opened at 98½c; highest, 98½c; lowest, 97⅝c; closed, 97¾c.

BRADFORD, August 31.—National transit certificates opened at 97⅞c; closed at 97⅞c; highest, 98⅝c; lowest, 97⅞c.

TITUSVILLE, August 31.—National transit certificates opened at 98⅛c; highest, 98⅞c; lowest, 97⅞c; closed, 97¾c.

THOUSANDS INVESTED.

Does This Look Like the Real Estate Business is Dead?

W. W. McNeill & Bro., 105 Fourth avenue, sold for Abraham Wakefield the property at the corner of Anderson street and River avenue, Allegheny, the lot being irregular in size, fronting 60 feet 3 inches on Anderson street by 29 feet on River avenue, on which is erected a three-story brick business block, for $10,000. The purchaser, John Bracken, will immediately make extensive improvements on the property. The above firm also placed a mortgage of $5,000 on Allegheny City property for six years at 6 per cent.

Black & Baird, 95 Fourth avenue, sold to Mrs. Francis Bihlman a new two-story and mansard brick dwelling on Marion avenue, Oakland, with lot 22x142 feet, for $6,250.

W. C. Stewart, 114 Fourth avenue, sold for H. W. Smith two lots, each 25x138 feet, located on Boquet street, Oakland, to Peter Goettman for $1,900 cash.

John F. Baxter, 512 Smithfield street, sold two lots, Villa Park plan, Brushton station, Nos. 488 and 489, frontage of 80 feet on Blackstone avenue by 150 feet to a 20-foot alley, to George C. Taylor for $550.

Alles & Bailey, 164 Fourth avenue, sold for John Henry a brick dwelling of eight rooms, vestibule, hall, etc., lot 20x118 feet, more or less, No. 222 Irwin avenue, Allegheny City, to S. F. Robertson for $3,600.

Reed B. Coyle & Co., 131 Fourth avenue, sold for William Bigge one of those elegant new modern brick dwellings on Meyran avenue, Oakland, for $7,500 cash.

James E. Creighton & Co., 12 Federal street, Allegheny, placed and settled a mortgage for $1,600 for three years at 6 per cent on property in the Sixth ward; also a mortgage for $250 on property in the same ward for two years at 6 per cent.

Samuel W. Black & Co., 99 Fourth avenue, sold lot No. 8, S. L. Boggs' plan, Allentown station, West Liberty borough, running from Washington avenue to Ludo street, 25x175 feet, for $250.

Mellon Bros. sold to James S. Dougan house and lot 50x100 feet, on Mellon street, in Mellon's Orchard plan, for $4,200; also, to Ed J. McCarthy, lot 50x115 feet, on Enfield street, Ben Venue, for $600.

HELD ITS OWN

A Good Week is the Building Trade—List of Permits.

The building trade held its own last week, which was as much as expected. Permits were taken out for 61 structures—some of them large and costly—the estimated expense of which is $139,251. The list is as given below:

Mary B. McCamish, frame two-story, 10x16 feet, on Webster avenue, Eleventh ward.

Mrs. McCollough, frame two-story, 17x32 feet, on Howley avenue, between Main and Forty-fifth streets, Sixteenth ward.

Henry Metaker, frame two-story, 17x32 feet, on Penn avenue, opposite Forty-fourth street, Sixteenth ward.

Thomas Marshall, frame two-story, 20x22 feet, on Butler street, near Fifty-third street, Eighteenth ward.

Robert Ellis, frame two-story, 20x48 feet, on Stanton avenue, near McCandless, Eighteenth ward.

John Blair, frame two-story, 17x46 feet, on Cypress street, Twentieth ward.

Edward Milton, frame two-story and mansard, 21x30 feet, on Sylvan avenue, Twenty-third ward.

Richard Lewis, frame two-story, 20x32 feet, on Arlington avenue, Twenty-fourth ward.

Richard Brooks, frame two-story, 18x16 feet, on Preble street, Thirteenth ward.

Henry Jefferson, frame two-story, 16x16 feet, on Wardsworth avenue, Thirteenth ward.

P. R. Conelly, frame two-story, 18x20 feet, on Bates street, Fourteenth ward.

St. Joseph R. C. Church, brick two-story, 15x34 feet, on Liberty avenue, Sixteenth ward.

Charles E. Cornelius, frame two-story, 18x32 feet, on Jancuf street, Eighteenth ward.

Charles E. Cornelius, frame two-story, 18x32 feet, on Butler street, Eigh eenth ward.

Frank Howell, frame one-story, 20x28 feet, on North Rebecca street, Twentieth ward.

Hugh Surve, frame two-story, 16x32 feet, on McCord's alley, Twenty-fourth ward.

C. Donaldson, frame two-story, 16x30 feet, on Hallman street, Twentieth ward.

William Hamuett, brick two-story, 17x52 feet, on Twenty-second street, between Jane and Mary, Twenty-fifth ward.

William Kirkham, frame one-story, 12x18 feet, on rear of 151 Twenty-sixth street, Twenty-fifth ward.

Thomas Hackett, brick four-story, 24x61 feet, on Fifth avenue, Sixth ward.

Thomas Hackett, two brick three-story, 24x36 feet, on Ann street, Sixth ward.

M. Egan, brick two-story, 42x36 feet, on Maria street, Sixth ward.

Standard Underground Cable Company, brick two-story, 47x116½ feet, on Sixteenth street, between Pike and