

WORLD'S BIGGEST CANNON

TO PROTECT NEW YORK.

The largest gun ever built is now being constructed at the Bethlehem (Penn.) Iron Works. This enormous piece of ordnance will weigh, when completed, 126 tons. It will exceed by six tons weight the monster gun which Krupp, of Germany, exhibited at the World's Fair, in Chicago, and in length it will be nearly five feet longer than the German gun.

This monster gun is being fabricated under the War Department. It is the biggest order ever given to any establishment in the world.

The great gun is being built under the superintendence of John F. Meigs, formerly a Lieutenant of the United States army and a standard artillery authority in this country. With him is associated Captain E. L. Zalinski, United States army (retired). The Government inspection work is in the hands of Captain Ira McNutt, of the ordnance corps of the army. All three gentlemen are on the ground and personally see to every detail of the immense undertaking as it progresses.

The intention of the War Department, it is announced, is to mount the great piece on a specially built foundation on Romer Shoals. The protection for this gun will be a turret, which will wholly inclose the crew and the greater part of the gun. From its position on Romer Shoals the great piece of ordnance will have a full sweep of the channels leading into New York Harbor. There is not, it is declared, a vessel afloat to-day with armor of sufficient strength to resist

again as the weapon, while the cost for foundation will, it is estimated, round out a grand total of at least \$300,000. The foundation for the sixteen-inch gun will require a depth, it is said, of fifty feet if earth be the basis. This foundation must be constructed of concrete.

IDAHO'S WOMAN GOVERNOR.

For Two Weeks Miss Margaret Reeve Filled the Executive Chair.

The news that for two weeks a woman had filled the executive chair of the State of Idaho—a thing unprecedented in this country's history—created no end of lively comment throughout the Northwest.

The woman is Miss Margaret Reeve, who for several years has held responsible places about Idaho's State building, having for the last four years been private secretary to the Governor.

When Governor Steunenberg and Secretary of State Lewis were called to the northern part of the State on business of the greatest importance in connection with the State's vast domain of white-pine timber, they were at their wits' end to know whom they could safely leave in charge of State matters during their absence, as Attorney-General McFarland had preceded them from the State.

It seemed for a time the trip would have to be postponed, or that one of them would have to remain behind, when Secretary of State Lewis suggested to the Governor that Miss

ELECTRIC CABS IN NEW YORK.

Horseless Vehicles Have Become a Fixture in the Big City.

Electric cabs, hansoms and broughams are a success in New York, so



ELECTRIC HANSON USED IN NEW YORK.

much of a success that the company operating them has just given out an order for 100 new vehicles. During June, the first month of their operation, a total number of 632 calls were received, averaging between thirty-two and twelve per day, carrying 1580 passengers 4603 miles at rates similar to the horse-cab system, and each month since that time has seen a steady increase in the service.

The best results obtained from these vehicles show that about 1.25 horsepower is supplied for a propulsion of 2000 pounds over ordinarily level roads at a speed of ten miles an hour. This consumption of power is a trifle over two and one-third times that of similar work on rails, which indicates that the equipment of the battery is carefully adapted to the total weight of the vehicle and just sufficient for practical traveling capacity. The maximum weight of a battery for a hansom weighing 3000 pounds is 1200 pounds for a distance of twenty-five miles at the maximum speed of twelve miles or at an average speed of six miles.



Little Girls' Frocks.

Little girls' frocks follow the styles of their mammas in the blouse effects. They also have the double skirts. A pretty one, the upper skirt being half the length of the under one, has the edges of both trimmed with rows of narrow satin ribbon. The silk of the gown has a light foundation with a tiny polka dot of a delicate color. The puffed sleeves come just below the elbow.

The First Woman Lawyer.

The first woman lawyer to practise in British dominions is Miss Edith R. Benjamin, LL. B., of Dunedin, New Zealand. Her university career was one of great distinction, and when she graduated this year in law, she came out first in jurisprudence, constitutional history and law, Roman law and equity, and was bracketed first with another in criminal law and real and personal property.

Decrease of Song Birds.

The rapid decrease of English song birds is now attributed not only to their being killed for millinery purposes to supply the demand made by English women, but to their being used for food. An English traveler asserts that in two or three Italian cities he saw, within the space of as many days, some thousands of dead English songsters exposed for sale in the provision shops. It is southward, of course, that they fly as soon as there is the first touch of frost, and then they meet this melancholy fate.

A Champion Breadmaker.

Mrs. Clem. B. Lincoln of Plattsburg, claims to be the champion breadmaker of Missouri. She has enough blue ribbons, medals and like trophies to make her claim to the honorable distinction a very strong one. It is a matter of serious doubt if any other woman in the state can show half as many trophies for excellence in the same line. Mrs. Lincoln is the wife of a well-to-do farmer. Mrs. Lincoln made her first showing of fine bread some years ago at the county fair at Liberty. She has not won her medals without competition, for there are other women in the state who know how to make excellent bread. She has been a frequent exhibitor in Kansas City, where she has always won first prize. Her supply of blue ribbons is the source of much pride to her, and the people who have had the privilege of eating the bread she bakes claim it is even better than it looks. Recently Mrs. Lincoln won the first honor at the fair held at St. Joseph. She has three little girls who are learning to make bread, and she expects them all to be prize winners.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Nuns on Bicycles.

Speaking of bicycles reminds me of their latest uses in London. Hospital nurses mounted on "safeties" are not unusual sights in our most crowded thoroughfares, and with their gauze veils, demure bonnets and jangling steel chatelaines, are rather weird, though not always unpleasant, spectacles. The latest members of the divine feminine to take to the insidious wheel, however, is a certain community of nuns that lead their secluded lives behind the high brick walls of a convent in one of the West End suburbs. There is always a certain amount of romance and "the-world-forgetting-and-by-the-world-forgot" atmosphere about a convent. Folded, prayerful hands, quietly serene faces, gentle voices and midnight vigils seem to breathe of all that is reposeful and devotional. Now, however, in the lovely grounds where at other times the nuns walk and tell their beads is heard the sound of the bicycle bell, and from the mother superior down to the youngest lay sister all ride bicycles, of course in the strict seclusion of the convent walls.—London Letter to New York Mail and Express.

She Had No "Scolding Locks."

Some people are absolutely devoid of tact. One of these is a youthful matron, who, wishing to make her very dearest friend—another young matron—a birthday present, decided on the purchase of a handsome pair of shell side combs.

Nothing could have been more appropriate for the blonde tresses of her friend, and the giver felt much pleased with her selection when she went to call on her to give her the pretty ornaments.

"I thought you would like them," she said, when her friend had admired them and thanked her rapturously, "you will find them so handy to fasten up your scolding locks."

"What do you mean?" asked her friend, in a surprised tone.

"Did you ever hear of scolding locks? They are the short ends of your hair that are always flying loose. They bother one so much, but side combs keeps them in order, besides being very becoming ornaments."

"So you think I have scolding locks—then I must be a scold. Thanks, awfully, dear, but I don't believe I need any combs. Keep them for your own scolding outfit," and the face of

A CELESTIAL FOOTBALL TEAM.

Club Which Would Prove Formidable to Almost Any Team.

China is not a country in which one would naturally expect football to be popular, but the game has at last been introduced among the celestials, and a team has been organized which is said to be the strongest football club in the world. The men who form the team are natives of northern China, and are typical of the remarkable race of giants produced in that part of the world. There is not a man among them who is not six feet high, and several of the members are three inches taller, while their average weight is about 200 pounds.

When playing, the celestials give vent to their feelings in the most peculiar noises, frequently shrieking with delight. Their yells of triumph which resound through the air whenever the ball goes through the opposite goal are likened, by one who has heard them, to the "plaintive cry of a pig that has been speared." The "charging" is generally done with the head.

The only precaution taken by these giants in regard to their physical strength on the football field is for the preservation of their pigtails, which are cared for as though they were worth a thousand times their weight in gold. With this exception, they throw caution to the winds, and devote themselves with all their strength to the play.

The great drawback to Chinese football is want of discipline. Every man considers it his duty to instruct his colleague what to do, and one-half the team yells to the other half all the time the game is in progress.

An attempt has been made to bring about a foreign tour of the Chinese footballers, but has not yet been successful. In the event of such a tour, the team will take with them their own doctors and cooks.—London Tit-Bits.

FUNERAL-WEDDINGS.

The Strange Custom Observed by a Tribe of Farther India.

Among the Shan Karens of farther India funerals are made the occasions of grand wedding festivals, in which all the marriageable young men and women of the village are privileged to participate. As it is not always convenient to hold these interesting ceremonies at the exact time a villager may die, it is customary to deposit the corpse in some temporary resting place till the marriage market is favorable to giving it obsequies worthy of its former estate. Consequently six months or a year may frequently pass before the memory of the dead Karen receives the honor which is its due.

When a good time comes for weddings the remains are taken from their resting place and set upon a platform which has been prepared for them, and the eligible bachelors and marriageable young women are invited to come and compete in a marrying match. The "funeral service" is then begun with a chorus of men celebrating the beauties of Karen maidens in general. The girls respond in a drawing falsetto. The bachelors, each in his turn, begin usually for the sake of peace, with the most muscular maiden. If one of them is rejected, he waits till his turn comes again, and addresses, if he sees fit, some other girl.

The girls receive the proposals in perfect self-possession, and respond to them in phrases like those with which they have been addressed, the models of which have come down from old times. Rejections seldom occur, except when a man makes a mistake and applies to a girl who is known to be reserving herself for another. The "funeral service" goes on in this way till it is plain that no more alliances can be made, when it is closed, and the body of the deceased is buried. The matches thus made are binding, and no other way of making them is in favor.

Her Ruse.

"Well," said Miss Twitters, "I think I am safe now."

"Safe from what?" asked Miss Kit-tish.

"Burglars."

"Were you in danger from burglars?"

"I think I was. Everybody is, more or less, especially an unprotected lady in a big house. I've been afraid of burglars ever since John and his wife went West and left me by myself."

"What have you done to insure safety?"

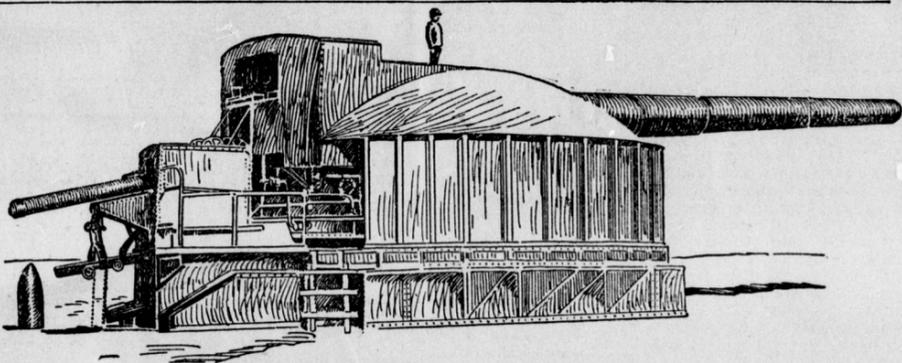
"I have bought four men's hats, of different styles and sizes, and I have hung them on the hat-rack in the hall. When Mr. Burglar surveys the array, he will decide that there are too many men in that house to make his exploit as safe as he might wish, and he will go on to some other house. I rather flatter myself that this is a pretty good plan. Don't you think so?"—Harper's Bazar.

An Elephant Race in Ceylon.

An elephant is a heavy looking animal but can be very quick in his movements. There was an elephant race recently at Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon, in which nine elephants took part, and in which an elephant belonging to the Buddhist high priest of Kandy won easily. A local paper says: "The race was won in heats and was most interesting to watch, the animals seeming quite to understand what they had to do, and moving regularly under the guidance of their respective mahouts or riders."

Molecules in Gas.

It has been calculated that the number of moles in a cubic inch of any gas is 100,000,000,000,000,000,000, and in each of these molecules there are several atoms moving among themselves at the rate of 70 miles a minute.



BIGGEST GUN IN THE WORLD TO PROTECT NEW YORK.

It will weigh, complete, 126 tons, and is six tons heavier than the giant gun shown by Krupp at the World's Fair at Chicago. It will be mounted on a special foundation at Romer Shoals, in the lower Bay. No vessel could resist a shot from it.

its shot. John F. Meigs estimates that a blow from the new gun would have a striking energy equal to that of a 2000-ton ship when running at full speed. The shot from the gun, he adds, would smash, crack and batter down any armor which it would be possible for a ship to carry.

The caliber will be sixteen inches, the length, from breech to muzzle, will be forty-nine feet two inches. Through the breech in a vertical line the gun will have a measurement of exactly five feet. Mr. Meigs computes the weight of a shot for the new gun at a little over 2300 pounds. That means more than a ton of metal. The heaviest shots fired in England have not weighed over 2000 pounds.

The powder charge for the American gun will weigh nearly 1000 pounds. Provided extreme elevation for range could be obtained, a shot from the New York Harbor gun should be able to travel more than sixteen miles. The greatest known range ever attained was from the famous "jubilee shot" in England. The distance measured about twelve statute miles.

The United States has never before attempted any heavier piece of ordnance for coast defence than a twelve-inch gun. The weight of a piece of the latter caliber is approximately fifty tons. In the sixteen-inch gun there is observed a jump of seventy-six tons increase in weight.

The first ingot for the new sixteen-inch gun was cast recently at Bethlehem. It was for the tube forging and weighed 82,800 pounds. The jacket forging is also out. It weighs 90,000 pounds. Under the contract made with the War Department the Bethlehem works will turn out all forgings for the great gun. The tempering and annealing process will also be applied at the Bethlehem shops. When all the parts are out, the tube, jacket and hoops will be shipped to the United States arsenal at Watervliet, West Troy, N. Y. There they are to be assembled together, and the gun itself rifled and made ready for service.

All metal used is fluid compressed. The specifications which are being adhered to demand the most exacting physical tests. Specimen pieces of metal are taken from all forgings, are subjected to elongation, breaking and bending tests. Finally every part of the gun must be of forged metal. The tube, for instance, has been cast and rough bored. It will next have a mandrel introduced through its length and then be placed under the hammer.

For this latter stage the Bethlehem works have the largest hammer in the world. It is capable of delivering a blow of 120 tons, or some ten tons more than the famous Krupp hammer.

The building of the new sixteen-inch gun is an expensive undertaking. The gun itself will cost about \$120,000. For single guns the average cost to the Government for all fortification work in this country is roughly \$1000 per ton of gun.

The cost of the gun carriage and turret will bring the cost up to as much

Reeve be left in charge. The Governor was almost stunned by the bold plan, but Miss Reeve had proved herself most efficient, being familiar with all the routine work in the building, and the Governor consented to the plan, and Miss Reeve was left at the State house clothed in full gubernatorial authority, which she exercised in a manner that not only gave satisfaction to the Governor, but has won her great distinction.

Before the Governor and party had been absent twenty-four hours matters of great importance were brought to Miss Reeve's attention. The Governor and Secretary of State had left a number of important blanks to which they had attached their signatures, and it was left to Miss Reeve's discretion to issue them or not—requisitions, applications for extraditions from Governors of other States, and many other matters.

She sought legal advice, but the attorney informed her she must depend upon herself, as he did not "care to be mixed up in the acts of any female Governor." When the Governor returned he was surprised at the amount of executive business his fair substitute had turned out, and frankly admitted the excellence of her judgment.



MISS MARGARET REEVE.

although in one instance—the case of an application for extradition—he said he would not have issued it until he had given the protestants a hearing. He has announced his determination to defend with vigor every act of "Governor Reeve," including those quoted.

Currents in the Atlantic.

Experiments have been going on for the past two years for the purpose of trying to learn something of the characteristics of the Atlantic ocean as a great moving body of water. As a result the whole Atlantic is shown to be slowly circulating round and round, like an enormous pool.

A vehicle to travel twice this distance could readily be built, but it would need to be twice its weight in order to accommodate twice the battery equipment. This type of vehicle is constructed with the view of a speed of from six to twelve miles an hour, but a vehicle can be built to approximate thirty miles an hour, although it would necessarily be made as a racing apparatus and not fit for street work.

Two one-and-one-half horse-power motors, weighing 172½ pounds each, are found sufficient for a hansom, and are operated at a maximum speed of 1350 revolutions per minute.

Largest Cast Iron Pipe Ever Moulded. The largest pipe ever cast was turned out at Bessemer, near Birmingham, Alabama, the other day. The pipe was



FIRST 72-INCH PIPE CAST.

seventy-two inches in diameter on the inside, and seventy-six and one-quarter inches in diameter, outside measurement, and twelve feet six inches long over all. The metal in it weighed 20,000 pounds. The seventy-two-inch pipe was moulded for the New Orleans & Northeastern Railroad, to be used for culverts under their tracks. A small river can flow through one of these pipes. It is as large as the great sewers of Paris which were built of brick and stone.

A Church Literally Founded on a Rock.

The tenth anniversary of the Presbyterian Church at Waterloo, Iowa, was celebrated a short time ago. There would be nothing remarkable about



CHURCH MADE FROM A ROCK.

that, only that the church is part of a solid rock, having been cut out of a big boulder ten years ago.

General Boulanger's black charger, on which he hoped to ride to a throne, now draws a Paris cab.