FIGHTING SNOW DRIFTS.

THE WHITE FOE OF TRAFFIC IN THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST.

Railway Lines Blockaded By Sweeping Avalanchès—An Army of Men Re-quired to Clear the Tracks—Great Snow Sheds For Protecting the Trains.

quired to Clear the Tracks-Great Snow Sheds For Protecting the Trains. "North America is the battle ground of the biggest snow fights on earth. There are thousands of men in the northwest whose only occupation dur-ing the winter months is to fight snow. It is exciting work, too, a life that in-volves the greatest hardships and con-tinual risks. One might search the world over for a more desperate and dangerous employment." It was a Canadian Pacific engineer who spoke. We were traveling over the Rocky Mountains at midnight. Through the glass-paneled door at the tail of the train one could see the icy crests of the Mountains in the pale moonlight. In the wake of the sum-mer fires the trees stood up thin and rakish, like the masts of ships. Else-where they were shrouded with droop-ing branches and spattered stems, in the universal snow. The snow gave an impressive sense of peacefulness to the impenetrable silence of the moun-tains. I looked out upon the solemn stillness, the broad stretches of mothe impenetrable silence of the moun-tains. I looked out upon the solemn stillness, the broad stretches of mo-tionless white, the deep passages of avalanches carved along the mountain sides, with a feeling of awe for the immensity of the power that had so changed the face of nature. But the railroad man had no illusions. To him the snow was a foe, a foe to be feared, a foe against whom men and engines had often measured their strength in vain. Every now and then the scenery

Every now and then the scenery on both sides, until we have the per

dust has cleared sufficiently for the ngineers around them, it may engineers to see around them, it may be that they have only advanced a yard, possibly the engine fires have been extinguished, not improbably the engine may have been thrown off the line. the line.

The one recourse which then re mains is to call in the assistance of mains is to call in the assistance of a small army of men, that a way may be forced through the snow with pick and shovel, and, while these opera-tions are progressing, the passenger train has to be kept constantly on the move, lest in a few hours it become incapable of movement at all. At such a time it is no unusual thing to see several hundred men at work on a single drift. Perhaps eight or a

to see several hundred men at work on a single drift. Perhaps eight or a dozen platforms are cut in the snow, and thus what is removed from the line is passed upward from stage to stage, climbing the steep walls in tiny shovelfuls, until it finally reaches the open waste, thirty or forty feet above the heads of the workers on the ground level. level.

The men are brought to the spot in special trains and fed and housed as best they can be. They work day and night, sometimes shoveling for thirty-

night, sometimes shoveling for thirty-six hours at a stretch. The thing that has simplified the task of snow fighting more than any-thing else, especially in the prairie country, is the rotary plow. The ap-pearance of the "rotary," as it is fa-miliary called by railroad men, re-minds one of nothing so much as the screw propeller of a steamship. It is a huge rosette of flanges, about twelve feet in diameter, that bores its way into snowbanks, clearing just enough space to enable the waiting train to pass through. As the winter goes on, the snow is piled higher and higher on both sides, until we have the per-

duty of the section men to look out for this, and if possible, to warn the engine driver, and to telegraph for a gang of workmen with pick and shovel to clear the track in the old-fashioned HELPS FOR HOUSEWIVES. To Iron Pillow Slips. Pillow slips should be ironed length

in.

way. But it is needless to say that the most vigilant section men cannot

always be relied upon in such a matter

PREFERS BICYCLE TO BRONCO.

This Indian Rides the Wheel With Ease and Grace. Onward progress in the case of the bicycle in the affections of the Ameri-

can people was never better illustrated than when Hole-in-the-Day of Devil's Lake, N. D., swapped his sure-footed

1 =

as this.

wise instead of crosswise, if one wishes to iron wrinkles out instead of

Washing Gloves.

A pair of white gloves or mittens e a comfort to hands taken from ho suds to hang clothes in zero weather; also, a close fitting.jacket and hood to keep one from catching cold.

To Clean Carpets

To Clean Carpets. Here is a good way to clean carpets without taking them up: Sweep thor-oughly first; then put two tablespoon-fuls of ammonia in a pail of water and, with a brush not too ostiff, scrub the carpet carefully. Wipe with a cloth; change the water frequently. Open all the windows and doors until the carpet dries. It will not take long.

To Wash Knitted Shawls

To Wash Knitted Shawls. To wash crochet or knitted wool shawls, boil the water with soap to make a good lather, instead of rub-bing the soap on the shawl, as this hardens the wool. Soak well in the soapy water, and cleanse by squeezing and moving about, not rubbing. After washing in this manner in two waters cured a clean white cluth on waters, spread a clean, white cloth on the table, and lift the article out on the cloth without squeezing; wrap the cloth will over it and pass through the wringer as thickly folded as it will allow. Then remove it from the cloth, and shake and dry quickly. The shawl will look like a newly worked one.

Novelties in Sofa Pillows.

Some distinct novelties in sofa pillow covers have recently been shown in the art-embroidery stores, and these will prove a welcome change to the housewife who finds that new covers

housewife who finds that new covers have to be provided for the pillows which have become faded or worn. The first of these is the poster pil-low. This is especially appropriate for the studio corner, the bachelor apartments or for a reading room. The cover is of a light cream canvas, upon which is printed a poster in two or cover is of a light cream cauvas, upon which is printed a poster in two or three colors. Of course, being a post-er, the outlines are strong, and there is no shading. As a consequence the matter of finishing it is very simple. The lines of each figure are gone over with one color of embroidery silk, usually black. This is all the work that is to be put upon it. The re-verse side of the pillow is of the plain canvas, and the edge is to be finished with a black cord. The pillow is very striking, and, if

The pillow is very striking, and, if appropriately placed, proves most effective.

The daintiest pillow of all is an en tirely new departure in linen-crash covers. The one exhibited in a lead-ing art store was of the blue and white crash in large checks. Fire

white crash in large checks. Five squares made the width. The pillow was made and finished like those which have been so popular for some time past. The ruffled edge was em-broidered in featherstitch. The distinctively new feature was the method of embroidering the body of the cover. In the white squares at each corner in the one, and midway between each corner, was embroidered a simple scroll figure. The same fig-nre was also embroidered in the cen-re square and in the four squares di-agonally between the centre and the agonally between the centre and the

corners. The work is done in two shades of blue to match the shades in the linen. the darker shade appearing where the stripes cross each other.

The centre of the figure is worked solid in light blue and outlined in the darker. The short scrolls are worked darker. The short scrons are not in light blue and the longer ones in

the dark. The whole effect is as dainty and while bretty as one could imagine, and, while t affords a change from those with the featherstitching only, it retains the prime excellence of the crash cov-ers—the ability to endure successfully any number of trips to the laundry -J. D. Cowles, in Chicago Record.

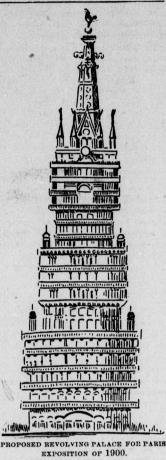
Household Hints. Clothes carefully folded and sprin kled are half ironed.

Black cotton hose should be dried and ironed on the wrong side to prevent fading.

The line, as soon as its duty is end-ed, should be reeled up and placed in

REVOLVING PALACE FOR PARIS. sition of 1900 Will Outdo Chicago's Great Ferris Wheel.

ris is to out-Ferris Ferris The great Chicago wheel is to be outdone in the universal exposition of 1900. The special wonder of the French fair will be the revolving palace, designed



by the eminent architect, M. Charles Devie. It is a hexagonal shaft, 350 Devie. It is a hexagonal shaft, 350 feet in height, divided into twenty-five

stories. The entire palace will be covered with nickel plate, aluminium, ornamental tiling and glass. This gorgeous structure will be il-luminated by 20,000 incandescent and 2000 arc lights of varied colors, so as 2000 arc lights of varied colors, so as to bring out clearly all the decorative lines, balconies, turrets, pillars and statues. In the loft of the palace will be a chime of sixty-four bells and a powerful organ, played upon by the aid of compressed air. The entire structure will turn on a pivot, the motive power being hydrau-lic pressure. It will make one revolu-tion an hour.

Towns Which Have Disappeared.

Towns which flave Disappeared. The North Sea is slowly but surely absorbing the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, in England. The Cromer of Cæsar's day now lies two miles out at sea under many fathoms of water, and sea under many fattoms of water, and the tides are stealthily creeping toward its successor, and already wash the place where the brick wall of a light-house stood not long ago. It is difficult to realize that the vil-

lage of Dunwich, in Suffolk, was at one time a royal town, the seat of King Sigebert's government; and that as late as the fourteenth century it was a populous and prosperous town, and maintained a fleet of war vessels. and maintained a neet of war vessels. A stealthy enemy was even then at its gates, and gradually the port was blocked with sand; houses crumbled into the sea by hundreds, and stately movasteries and churches were en-gulfed. To-day, Dunwich has shrunk to a tiny village with a population of little over 200 souls.—Tit-Bits.

A Genuine Bill, But Split.

A Genuine Bill, But Spirt. A few days ago a sensation was caused at Ionia by the discovery of a counterfeit \$100 silver certificate. The bill had been offered to the cashier of one of the local banks, and pronounced by him to be bogus, and this opinion was confirmed later by a Secret opinion was confirmed later by a Secret Service officer who went there to in-vestigate the matter. The bill had partially split in two, and it was sup-posed to be one of the kind where the front and back are printed on separate sheets of thin paper by counterfeiters, and then pasted together, with the silk threads between. The bill was sent to the Treasury officials at Wash-ington, and on Monday the Iouia cash-ier and the Secret Service officer were astounded at a dispatch from Wash-ington stating that the bill was genu-ine and that \$100 in currency had been sent on to redeem it. This is the first instance known of a United been sent on to redeem it. This is the first instance known of a United States note splitting in two.—Detroit Free Press.

AN AUDIENCE OF THREE. Artemus Ward Escaped From

Awkward Situation Before Artenus Ward went to Lon-don, where the English fell in love with him only to mourn his prema-ture death among them, he had con-quered the respect and affection of his quered the respect and affection of his own countrymen by his quaint and kindly humor. The itinerary of one of his tours led him to a town in cen-tral Pennsylvania. It was about the middle of January. The day of the lecture came, and with it early came Artemus. Before noon a tremendous snowstorm broke over that part of Pennsylvania and raged furiously all day and night. There are some perday and night. There are some per-sons yet living who remember that storm, and how regretfully, in view of storm, and how regretifully, in view of its savage ferocity, they gave up the idea of hearing Artemus Ward. All special trains were abandoned. When the lecturer appeared on the stage that night and looked about him, in all the large theatre he saw only three men, each in the seathis coupon called for; all three, as it happened, being far to the rear. far to the rear. The three men looked lonely and un-

comfortable. As one of them said af-terward, they did not think there were terward, they did not think there were cnough of them to do justice to the cccasion, and they felt the awkward-ness of the situation and wondered what the outcome would be. Keep-ing that solemn face of his at its sol-emnest, Artemus advanced to the foot-lights and beckoning to the three men, said: "Come up, closer, gentlemen. I want to speak to you." He had to repeat this invitation before his audi-tors understood that he meant what tors understood that he meant what he said, and mustered courage to go he said, and mustered courage to go forward. When they had taken seats together in the front row, Artemus said: "There, now, that's more socia-ble." He paused and went on: "Gentlemen, you are entitled to see my show and hear my lecture, if you are so disposed. But I understand that underneath this hall there is an excel-lent cafe, and I surgest that we spend

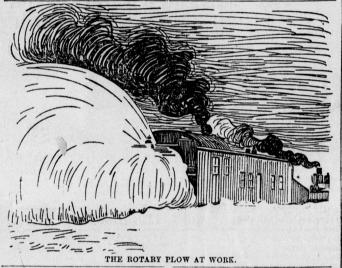
lent cafe, and I suggest that we spend the evening there, you as my guests." Though réluctant to forego the show

and lecture, as they saw Artemus had no mind for them, the three agreed to his proposition, the lights were turned out, and the little party descended to the cafe, where for hours they made the cafe, where for hours they made merry, and whence one of them at least was most reluctant to start for home. He says he never had a more snjoyable time in his life, and that if Artemus Ward was not at his best then his best must have been "past all whooping." For the stories he told, and the way he told them made them forget time and circumstance, and comforget time and circumstance, and completely banished any lingering regret for what they had not received up-stairs.—New York Times.

Queer Way to Catch Turtles.

Most voyagers in tropical seas are acquainted with a peculiar fish, E. remora, known generally by the triv-ial name of the "sucker." The dis-tinguishing characteristic of this fish tinguishing characteristic of this fish is laziness. Unwilling to exert itself overmuch in the pursuit of food, it has developed an arrangement on the back of its head exactly like the cor-rugated sole of a tennis shoe, and as artificial in appearance as if made and fitted by the hand of man. When the sucker finds itself in the vicinity of any large floating body, such as a any large floating body, such as a ship, a shark, or a piece of flotsam, whose neighborhood seems to promise an abundance of food, it attaches itself firmly thereto by means of this curious contrivance, which permits it to eat, breathe and perform all neces-sary functions while being carried about without any exertion on its part. It can attach and detach itself instan-taneously, and holds so firmly that a direct backward pull cannot dislodge it without injury to the fish. The Chinese, who have successfully trained the cormorant and the otter to fish for them, have taken the remora in hand with the happiest results. Sevise an abundance of food, it attaches hand with the happiest results. Several good-sized specimens having been caught, small iron rings are fitted to caught, small from rings are nited to their tails, to which are attached long, slender, but very strong, lines. Thus equipped the fishermen set out, and when a basking turtle is seen, two or three of the suckers are slipped over-board. Should they turn and stick to the battern of the semmen they are the bottom of the sampan, they are carefully detached by being pushed forward with the inevitable bamboo,

and started on the search again. At last they attach themselves to the su-



was blotted out; the glass panels sud-den!) showed us nothing but the re-flection of the qar and bobbing light of the overhead lamp. They were snow sheds through which the train denly showed us nothing but the re-flection of the gar and bobbing light of the overhead lamp. They were snow sheds through which the train was passing. The railroad, cut like a single step in the side of the mountain chasm, was roofed in as snugly as a house. Above, for all we knew, the soow might be tambling head-long over the slippery ledge in a tempest impotent to inflict an injury to the poor snake of a train hiding beneath its shelter. These snow sheds have been erected among the mountains at an enormous cost. They are of massive timber work—heavy beams of squared timber, dovetailed and bolted together, and

among the mountains at an enormous cost. They are of massive timber work—heavybeams of squared timber, dovetailed and bolted together, and backed with rock. They are fitted into the mountain so that they become, as it were, a part of the moun-tain side, so as to bid defiance to the most terrific avalanche.

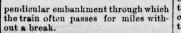
Anything may precipitate an ava-unche down the steep declivities of lanche lanche down the steep declivities of those piled-up precipices, among which the single-track railway looks like a pin's scratch would on the hand of man. It need be no more than a loos-ened scrap of rock that has started rolling downwards with no forethought the measurable cataclysm that its passage will create. assage will create.

25

stage will create. In a few yards it has become imbed-l in a mighty mass of moving snow, col-white torrent licking up the whan trees as it passes like straws by up in a storm of autumn leavas,

great success. Some of the bigger plows weigh over fifty tons by them-selves, and with the machinery that

The cutter, with its own private engine, as it were, is placed on a mass-ive truck which is inclosed like the wages, the expenses in this respect on one job amounting to over a \$150 a day. A rotary in good hands will clear a snow blockaded track at the rate from two to twelve miles an hour;



operates them the total weight is over 100 tons.



FOLDED CAN'T CHANGE COLOR.

Disappointed in Loye. There is an old lady residing south of Kokomo, near the Howard-Tipton county line, who has been a "man hater" for forty years. She is a spin-ster leading a hermit's life, and has a comfortable sum of money secreted in her home. her home.

The chameleon is a little lizard, who possesses the wonderful power of changing his color to suit his own conchanging his color to suit his own con-venience. Florida produces several species of these lizards in abundance. Up to the present day no one has un-derstood the process by which the lit-tle lizard effects his changes. Now it

Certain colors through the medium of the optic nerve produce a contracof the optic here produce a contrac-tion or expansion of the pigment or color cells. The result is a protective tint or one which resembles that upon which the animal is resting. The eye receives the stimulus or impression, which passes from the optic nerve to the symmethetic nerve to reaching the sympathetic nerve, so reaching the various series of the lizard's little

HOLE-IN-THE-DAY ON HIS WHEEL

bronco for a "bike." The manœuvres

bronco for a "bike." The manœuvres of the bicycle squad attached to the military post at that point filled him with admiration and a desire, and now he can ride with the ease and grace of an old-timer. Hard falls and punct-ures came his way while learning to master the silent steed, but such trials did not cause him to swear in his af-fection for the pneumatic-shod vehicle.

fection for the pneumatic-shod vehicle. Hole-in-the Day's example has been followed by other Indians, and an In-

dian cycling club may now be organ How a Chameleon Changes Color.

color cells under the skin. The pigment cells are distributed all over the body with more or less regularity, and upon their contraction and



THE LITTLE CHAMELEON WHEN BLIND-

expansion depends the prevailing color

expansion depends the prevaiing cover of the animal. The scientist discovered this by blindfolding a lizard, and found that when it couldn't see the color of the surrounding foliage it ceased to change its own color.

ing more venomous, more power-more irresistible, until the rush e wind before it clears a passage ugh the forest anticipating its uges, removing all obstacles as the outriders to a royal equipage make way through a mass of human beings. It is truly a royal foe that the rail-road men of the northwest have to encounter among the mountains. An ournihing, terrific iffree, something onruhing, terrific force, something which can not be thecked. It is nec-

which can not be Unceked. It is nec-essary to resort to subterfuge, to cheat it, to hide from it, or to make good by artificial means the path that the rail-way has struck out for itself. Among the Cascade Mountains I have seen seven and eight engines linked together charging impotently against the snowbanks, and at night time there is no more wonderful sight than this, each hissing engine throw-ing its sheath of firelight on the ten-ders, with their heavy loads of wood ders, with their heavy loads of wood fuel, on the gleaming snowbanks, on the great trees seeming to pressround to mock by their stillness all this use-loss fuss and fury, this powerless rag-ing, this resultless disturbance of their where



THE ENGINEER AFTER A RIDE IN A STORM

but the consumption of coal is one ton in 30 minutes

Wace. The plow of the solution of the solutio With a rotary plow the engineers do

Since being disappointed in love forty years ago she has never spoken to a man. She is seldom seen in town, to a man. She is seldom seen in town, and her small trading is always done with women elerks. She has made a will and purchased a cemetery lot. Explicit directions have been given that the man shell proved her forward Explicit directions have been given that no man shall preach her funeral sermon nor act as pall-bearer. A women shall act as pall-bearers, a woman shall drive the hearse, and women lower the body and fill the grave. No men are to be allowed in the funeral procession and payerse. the funeral procession, and newspa-pers are forbidden to mention her de-mise.—Indianapolis (Ind.) Sentinel.

How to Avoid Colds

Cold and exposed extremities and too much wrapping around the body create congestion and pave the way for disease. The hygienic and sensifor disease. The hygienic and sensi-ble method is to give the throat, chest and arms a dash of cold salt and water every morning upon rising. An en-tire sponge bath of this sort is of great tire advantage, but this treatment of the throat and chest is almost absolutely necessary if one would avoid a multi-tude of ills that affect this portion of

a bag until next time

Black and white calicoes are bane fited by having a handful of salt added to a rinsing water.

Calicoes should be washed in clean water, dried in the shade, and turned on the wrong side to dry.

Red tablecloths keep their color if a little borax is added to the rinse wa-ter and they are dried in the shade. Pillow slips should be ironed lengthwise instead of crosswise, if one wishes to iron wrinkles out instead of in.

Dish towels and common towels car be ironed just as well in half the time if folded together once as if ironed

Clothes when brought in should be separated and folded at once; if al-lowed to lie together, many wrinkles accumulate.

Marriage and Long Life.

Marriage and Long Life. Dr. Schwartz of Berlin, has come to the conclusion that marriage is the most important factor in human life con-ducive to longevity, as of 200 persons who attained the age of forty 125 were married and seventy-five single. At sixty the proportions were forty-eight to twenty-two; at seventy, twenty-seven to eleven, and at ninety, nine to three. Among fifty centenarians not seven to eleven, and at ninety, nine to three. Among fifty centenarians not one bachelor or spinster could be found, nor for the matter of that one married couple—all these venerable individuals being widows or widowers. —London Telegraph.

Dragon Fly's Vitality.

The great vitality of dragon files is shown, says the New York Independ-ent, by McLachland, who, having struck at a large aeschna at rest on a twig, the head was seen to tumble down, while the rest of the insect flew down, while the rest of the insect flew away in an "undecided manner" for a considerable distance. Upon, picking up the head he noticed that the insect had been eating a fly at the time. "The mandibles continued working as if nothing had happened, and the mas-ticated portions of the fly passed out at the back of the head."

Cancer From an Odd Cause

Cancer From an Odd Cause. Forty years ago an Australian phy-sician was shot in the head by a na-tive who ran amuck. In course of years the bullet worked its way down under the tongue, but the surgeons did not succeed in removing it. A few months ago the bullet came to the surface of itself. Shortly afterwards cancer of the tongue was developed, to which the man succumbed.

nine turtle. Then the fishermen haul in the lines, against which gentle suasion the hapless Chelone struggles in vain. Once on board the lugger the useful remora is detached, and is at once ready for use again. — Chambers' Journal.

A Spin on an Ice Yacht.

The wind is strong and steady, and the boat glides faster and faster. Sharp exclamations of pleasure testify that exclamations of pleasure testify that the passengers are enjoying it. The speed increases. Before lies a field smooth as plate glass and as level as a billiard table. For two miles it ex-tends without a flaw. At its further edge lies a tremendous crack, filled with ground up ice and heaving black water. The full power of the wind strikes the white wings as the smooth-est ice is reached, and the craft darts away at a tremendous pace. Faster. away at a tremendous pace. Faster, faster, she flies, till she is traveling faster than the wind that drives her. The air seems to be full of electric sparks, a frosty haze blurs the view, every heart is throbbing with delight at the wild, free speed of it all. Be-fore one has had time to think, the fore one has had time to think, the crack seems to be rushing at the boat. A moment of intense anxiety, a catch-ing of breaths, a wild pumping of hearts, then a shriek of excited joy. The good boat has flown the gap as a hunter clears his fence—has flung it behind her with never a rap, and is tearing away over another good bit, as tearing away over another good bit, as though she has no need to touch any-thing more solid than the cold, sweet air.—Outing.