GOTHAM'S DIG VANS.

HOW THEY ARE USED FOR LONG AND SHORT DISTANCE MOVING.

Breakage, Time and Trouble Baved by These Large Vehicles-The Business of Moving Day Reduced to a Science-Travel by Train and Steamboat.

The estimator for a storage and van company will walk into a house or a flat and estimate within a cubic foot of how much space the contents will take up packed, and he doesn't make any elaborate computations either. He just walks in a descurely way through a house from roof to cellar or through a flat from end to end, and when he is through he knows. Houses vary great-ly. One three story house might have in it three van loads. The house just like it next door might have six, but the estimator rarely makes a mistake. He might get half a van load-out of the way in estimating a six load house, but this would be quite unusual. He would be much more likely to hit the mark.

The contract price for moving means for moving from any floor to any floor. If it is desired, the company will send barrels, boxes and packing materials and men to pack crockery, bronzes, books, bric-a-brac, and so on, at 75 cents a barrel or its equivalent inspace. The time for loading and for starting the vans would depend somewhat on where the goods were going. If they were go-ing 40 miles into the country, the vans would be loaded the afternoon before and would start at 2 c/clock in the morning. They would arrive at their destination at about 10 c/clock the same morning, the horses would be put up and the yans unleaded, the start on the return would be made at about 2 o'clock the next morning, and the arrival in the city would be at about 10.

Vans are specially constructed with large bodies and low wheels for transportation by steamboat or railroad. Whether horses are taken on such trips depends altogether on the distance the vans are going. If to a nearby point, the horses go along; if to a distant point, it is cheaper to hire horses there. If vans were going to Newport, for instance, they would be shipped on a freight propeller, whose derrick would pick them up like great boxes of goods and land them on deck. On such a trip horses would not be taken, but hired in Newport for the hauling there. Horses would meet the vans at the dock upon their return here. Vans go west at least as far as Louisville, south to Baltimore and Washington. In transfers, say to Long Branch and other nearby points. the horses go with the vans

Fifty miles would ordinarily be about the limit of the distance that vans cover on their own wheels, but they sometimes go greater distances. Forty miles would be not at all unusual, and trips of 30 miles and less are common. The drivers know the roads within 50 miles around New York well. They know where the paved roads are and those that are most nearly level, and where the poorer or more difficult roads are, too, and so they know what sort of an outfit to take. Where the roads are good to destination the vans would be drawn by four horses. On bad or hilly roads they would take six horses. It is interesting to note, as the result of the drivers' observations, that the roads around New York are better than they used to be, and that they are steadily improving. Not infrequently the van companies move people from one point to another outside of the city. For example, a gentleman who lived in a town near Bridgeport, Conn., who was about to move to a place near Tarrytown, in this state, contracted with a van company of this city to move him. Three vans went up from the city on this expedition. The work took about two weeks. Here the distance to be covered was so great that it was impossible to make it in a single day, and the vans halted at night and went on in the morning. They went to and fro in this way until the work was completed. The bill for this job came to nearly \$1,300. The van companies move goods between points in the city as well as to and from it, and besides moving household goods they will estimate on and contract to remove the contents of a store or a building to another store or building. A recent moving job in this city came to about \$1,200. Goods moving in vans on their own wheels are not insured. In transit by rail or boat they are insured at the request of the owner. The cost of moving by vans.depends, of course, largely on distance, and it varies somewhat according to season and cir-cumstances. It is cheaper between seasons, and the nature of the roads to be covered might have something to do with it. To Morristown, N. J., distance about 30 miles, the price in the basy season would be \$35 a van and expenses, the expenses being ferriage and tolls. To a point, say, 19 miles from the city, in the basy season, the rate would be \$29 in the busy season, the rate would be \$29 a van and expenses. The storage and van business has in-creased greatly in New York in recent years. The population of the city and its suburbs has increased rapidly, and there are now more moving days than formerly. Many leases now run from April or October, besides those that run from May, so that the business is more distributed through the year. The num-ber of these who go out of town for the summer has increased greatly. Many summer has increased greatly. Many aumner has increased greatly. Many persons regularly every year move household goods enough to furnish or partly furnish a house at the seashore or in the country. There are many persons who give up their rents in spring and store their effects and go away until fall.—New York Sun.

QUEER PLANTS USED FOR FOODS. Little Known Vegetables and Edible In-

the Prairie Over at the department of agriculture, bidden away in an obscure corner, is an odd sort of exhibit of queer foods eaten by out of the way people. There is a loaf of bread made from the roasted leaves of a plant allied to the century plant. Another kind of bread is from a dough of juniper berries. These are relished by some tribes of Indians, while others manufacture cakes out of different kinds of bulbs.

The prairie Indians relish a dish of wild turnips, which civilized people would not be likely to enjoy at all. In the great American desert the "screw beans," which grow on mesquite bush es, are utilized for food. Soap herries furnish an agreeable diet for some savages in this country, while in California the copper colored aborigines do not disdain the seeds of salt grass. Also in California the Digger Indians

collect pine nuts, which are the seeds of certain species of pine, sometimes called "pinons," by kindling fires against the trees, thus causing the nuts to fall out of the cones. At the same time a sweet gum exudes from the bark, serving the purpose of sugar. The seeds of gourds are consumed in the shape of much by Indians in Arizona.

In addition to all these things the exhibit referred to includes a jar of pulverized crickets which are eaten in that form by the Indians of Oregon. They are roasted, as are likewise grasshoppers and even slugs. These delicacies are cooked in a pit, being arranged in alternate lavers with hot stones. After being thus prepared they are dried and ground to powder. They are mixed with pounded acorns or berries, the flour made in this way being kneaded into cakes and dried in the sun.

The Assiniboines use a kind of seed to stop bleeding at the nose. Among other curious things used for food are acorns, sunflower seeds, grape seeds, flowers of cattails, moss from the spruce fir tree and the blossoms of wild clover. The exhibit embraces a number of models. representing graps seeds enormously enlarged. It is actually possible to tell the species of a grape by the shape of the seed. There is a jar of red willow bark, which Indians mix with tobacco for the sake of economy. This, however, is only one of a thousand plants that are utilized in a similar fashion.-Washington Star.

A Jamalca Congregation.

In pours the black portion of the congregation. It is composed for the most part of women. They are gorgeously arrayed in silks and cottons of the most bewildering brilliancy, with golden beehive shaped ornaments in their ears and twists of gold about their necks, and all are beaming and smiling with the ut-most complacency and self satisfaction.

With a great many of them the first duty is to take off their boots or shoes. Small wonder, for half of them are in the habit of trudging 20 or 30 miles a day barefooted to and from market, and the other half, if they do not use their feet so hardly, at any rate never confine them.

Poor or wanting in proper pride indeed must be that woman who cannot raise a pair of boots or shoes for Sunday use! It means agony, you may conceive, to keep pinched up in stiff leather a pair of feet used to free, untrammeled move-ment, but it has to be borne, and it is borne-for a few minutes. It is managed thus: On the road to church a hait is made at about 200 yards' distance from the building for the purpose of putting on the boots or shoes, which have been hitherto held in the hands. Church is then hobbled into and the boots or shoes taken off, to be again put on as the service draws to close. Church is then hobbled out of, and at a respectable distance from it the instruments of torture are again got rid of, not to be put on again for a week .- All the Year Round. Electric Quantity and Tension. Electric quantity and tension-or intensity-are terms based on the assump-tion that electricity is a fluid. Quan-tity is the amount of the fluid that a body contains as its charge and the tension or intensity on any point of its sur-face-insulated electricity lies on the surface-is the depth, or if the depth remain the same the density of the fluid at that point. The quantity has refer-ence to the number of particles electrified and the amount of force lodged in fied and the amount of force lodged in each; the tension has reference simply to the inductive force lodged in each. Particles that are highly electrified must polarize powerfully the particles near them, and if powerful enough cause discharge. Tension or intensity, therefore, is the power to polarize and effect discharge. The quantity of elec-tricity passing in a current is estimated by the power of the current to deflect the magnetic needle by the chemical deby the power of the current to denect the magnetic needle by the chemical de-composition it effects, or by the temper-ature to which it raises a wire of given thickness and material. The tension or intensity of the current is the power which it has to transmit a current against resistance, such as that offered by a bad, long or thin conductor. Tention, strictly speaking, is not a property of the current, but of the battery which generates the current.—Brooklyn Esgle.

A Climbing Ballock.

At the great slaughter houses in the Parisian suburb of La Villette there is a granary from which the beasts await-ing execution are fed. The way to it is up a substantial ladder staircase. One of the bullocks, having escaped from the pens, climbed up this staircase before he could be stopped. When his escape was first discovered, he was seen on the stairs, slowly and laboriously making his way upward. As soon as he reached the granary two or three attendants followed him and endeavored to get him down, but all their efforts were unavail-There was nothing to be done, ing. therefore, but to leave the beast there to eat his fill and then see whether he would be clever enough to return by the way he went. Possibly some thought of exhibiting him in public may have crossed the minds of his guardians, but if so they were doomed to disappointment. The stupid animal, instead of trusting to the staircase, got out of a window on the opposite side of the building and put one foot on a little thin ladder standing against it. There was a crash, the ladder broke in half and the too adventurous bullock fell. breaking all his legs, so that he had to be killed on the spot.-Paris Letter.

"The most eloquent speakers are not the most powerful," says Hon. John Fithian of Illinois. "There are men who could hold an audience spellbound with a speech about a cockroach and at the close of it the people would not know whether the cockroach was an animal, a bird or a piece of machinery. I saw an illustration of this one time in a political meeting. One of the most eloquent speakers in the country is Em-erson Etheridge, and I heard him deliver a speech that swayed the hearers like music at the hands of a master. There was nothing that he could not do with the crowd while they were under his control. His opponent had a voice like a big bass viol, halted and stammered. but confined himself to homely language and rather coarse ridicule. watched the vote in that precinct, and the measure advocated by the eloquent speaker scarcely received a vote, while the other man had carried everything before him as if by storm."

Every well developed adult of the human species has lung surface equal to 1,400 square feet. The heart's power is sufficient to lift itself 13,000 feet each hour.

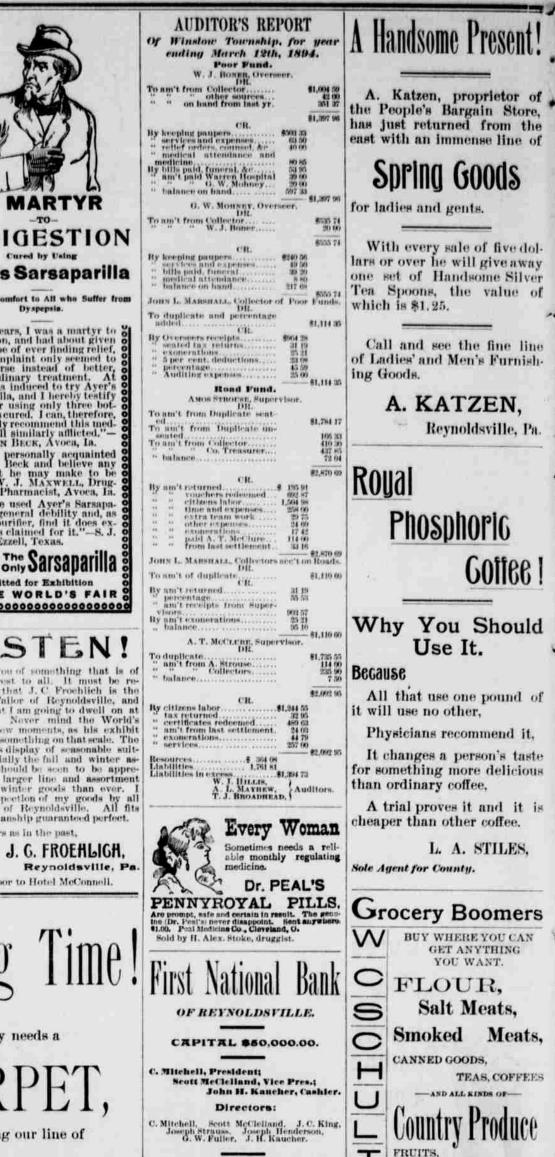
Mirages may occur in any place where the denser stratum of air is shifted above the lighter stratum, thus causing a reflection of the rays of light.

The advocates of cremation assert that burial grounds will be regarded as relics of an uncivilized age by the year 1994.

Bells, says a writer, toll for the mak-ing or breaking of engagements in some German towns

The acts of this life are the destiny of the next.-Eastern Proverb.





Talking and Writing.

What a difference there is between talking and writing! It is mighty dull correspondence where one person has to do all the writing, but it is no unusual thing to find a person whose idea of per-fect conversation is where he does all the talking.—Roston Trayeljer.

Where Snow Is Red

Where some the Bed. Snow is sometimes found in polar and Alpine regions, where it lies annuelted from year to year and the annual fall in mumerable small red plants. In its intred globules on a gelatinous mass, Red anow was observed by the ancients, a passage in Aristotle referring to it, in the Alps and concluded that it was due to the pollen of a plant. It was also noticed by the arctic expedition one range of cliffs, the red color pene-iting to a depth of 15 feet. Less fre-guest's to a green growth on snow.—La-ter 'Home Journal.

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