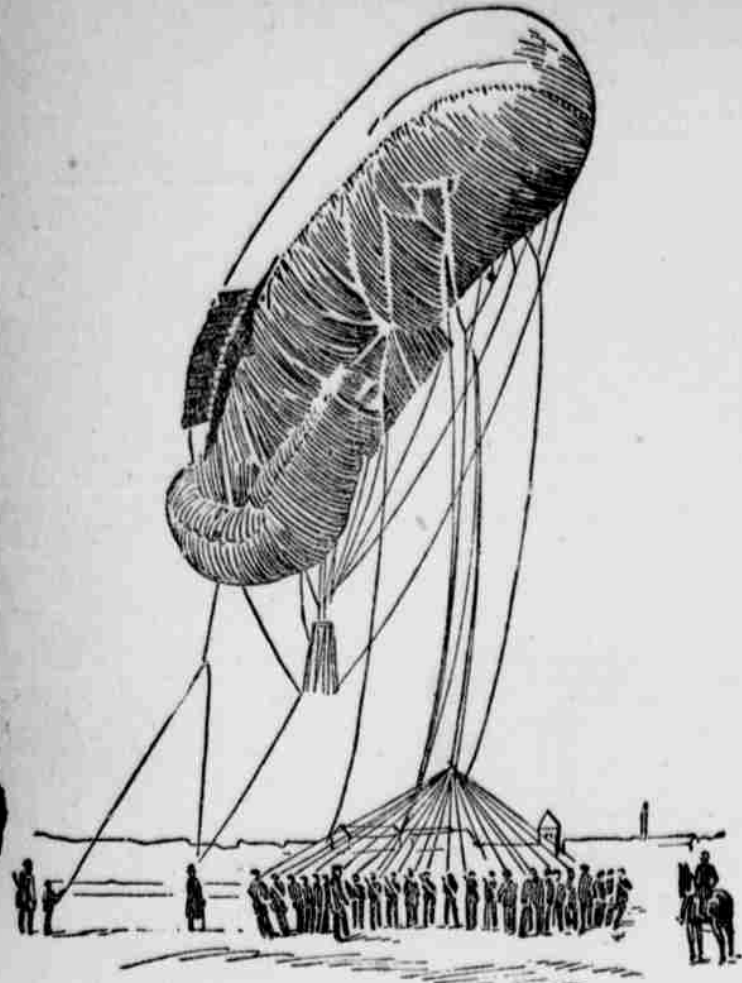


**ASCENT OF A DRAGON BALLOON.**



tions. The gas will be conveyed in wagons drawn by a steam traction engine or by four horses. This gas is stowed in steel cylinders, 110 cylinders being required to fill one balloon of 10,000 cubic feet capacity. Hitherto one cause of great concern in the ballooning operations has been the difficulty of obtaining a balloon sufficiently steady to ensure the making of accurate observations. It has also been feared that the difficulties attending the manufacture, handling and conveyance of the gas might prove insurmountable. In order that this may not prove a stumbling block in the Transvaal, the British army is being also furnished with equipment for the rapid erection of observation towers. The care of these is entrusted to the Royal Engineers, a section of the British army whose operations have always been distinguished by excellence of work. One of the illustrations shows one of these towers after it has reached a height of 110 feet. It will be seen that the observation posts afford every facility for reconnoitering the movements of the Boer army. The results of the

**BRITISH WAR BALLOONS WATCH THE BOERS.**

Remarkable Battlefield Work Done by Mounted Telegraphers.

**DISPATCH** from Cape Town states that the British troops have an important auxiliary in the military balloon, and the defence of Ladysmith was considerably facilitated thereby. The balloon was in telephonic communication with the camp, and kept a watch on the Boer movements during the night. The brilliant work performed by the signaling corps of the United States army during the war with Spain caused special attention to be drawn to that branch of the service. An interesting comparison will be afforded by the study of the operations of the signalers of the British army in the hostilities in the Transvaal. The latest information received is to the effect that a complete ballooning corps from England is on the

firmly expected that their advent in the Transvaal will afford many lessons in the possibilities of ballooning in warfare.

The British balloon division is fully equipped for the work it is to perform. The chief work which it will be expected to execute may be summed up as follows: First, to discover the whereabouts of the Boers hidden in cover; second, to make observations and to take photographs; third, to



TELEGRAPHING FROM A WAR BALLOON.

observations made by balloon or tower will be communicated to the general staff headquarters by means of telephone and telegraph lines, to be erected by the telegraph battalion of the Royal Engineers. This battalion has seen long and honorable service. In the erection of temporary lines it has made a record for speed, stability and efficiency. Galloping across a plain, horsemen may be seen, impaling their specially constructed posts at regular distances. With a speed that is almost incredible, other horsemen follow, unreeling the coils of wire; others, with an agility and skill hitherto confined to circuses, pursue them, standing on saddle to adjust a wire to the insulator, dropping into their seat, only to repeat the operation a few yards further on. The illustrations show that this line is not as primitive in construction as one might suppose.

**Baled Money.**

But speaking of cotton—strange how the subject sticks to one—I once asked a small farmer in Georgia, "Why do you raise cotton year after year? It seems to me it's the hardest thing in the world to raise; it requires more care than anything I know of; has to be plowed oftener and looked after more carefully; why don't you raise something to eat?" And the man with the two-mule farm laughed and said, "I'd know you was from the North just by that fool speech. Because I owe for my land. I have to have money every year to run this farm. I can borrow money on my next crop of cotton. And the man who lends me the money can keep his eye on my crop from the time the seed is in the ground till it is loaded on the cars. His security is all right. But if I go to him in the spring and tell him I ain't going to raise any cotton, but only corn and garden truck, he can't keep track of no such perishable security as that. He won't lend me a cent. So if I want any money I've got to raise cotton." And I made what haste I could to swim ashore. It is so easy, son, for us to tell people 2000 miles away just what they ought to do. So much easier than it is to go there and do it.—Robert Burdette, in the Los Angeles Times.

**Secret Drawers Designed by a Woman.**

"Most people seem to think," said a maker of furniture, "that secret drawers and hidden receptacles in furniture only exist in novels and plays, but this is by no means so. I very frequently take orders for such items, and I employ a clever woman designer, who shows positive genius in planning places of concealment, which no amount of tapping or measuring could reveal. In most cases, even were the hollow receptacle discovered, the woodwork around would have to be cut away, so complex are the fastenings. Most of the orders come from women—and rich people, of course—and I have no doubt that a desire to hide articles from too curious servants dictates the orders."

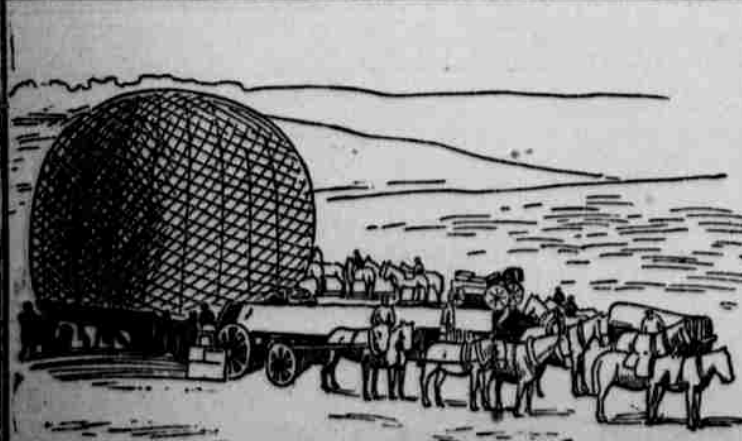
"Barker humbly says he is but an instrument in the hands of destiny." "I know he talks that way; but, all the same, he thinks destiny has its hands full when it is using him."—Indianapolis Journal.

carry dispatches. Invaluable information concerning the enemy's movements will be telephoned from the men in the car to those below. The balloon, too, will render excellent service for map-making purposes. Photographs will be taken vertically downward that will show every detail of the country and the position of the Boer forces. It is only a matter of practice for skilled surveyors to become efficient in judging distances and heights from a balloon car and in making accurate sketches and maps.



CIRCUS-LIKE FEAT IN THE FIELD.

scene of action. The great Napoleon regarded military balloons as of "no strategic importance." He was accompanied by a ballooning corps during his second campaign in Egypt, but the wagons containing the acces-



BALLOONING TRAIN IN THE FIELD.

sories fell into British hands, and this calamity no doubt influenced his opinion. However, since those days military balloons have done good work on many occasions, and it is con-

These balloons are made of gold-beaters' skin, which is far superior in every way to silk. Each balloon will be placed on a wagon and drawn by twelve horses to the scene of opera-

**NEW YORK FASHIONS.**

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

New York City. (Special).—The deepest pitfall in the path of the amateur milliner is the messiness of prevailing styles. Amateur milliners

**The Newest Form of Cloak.**

The newest long cloak for theatre and general evening wear is crepe de Chine. It is lightly stretched around the shoulders to about the elbow, and from this point to the ground all the fullness is set into narrow little ribbons or tucks, doing away with all folds or flutes. This is a reversal of the usual order of things, tucks and straightness below the elbow instead of above it, as for a tall, slim woman the innovation is very becoming. The high collar of this cloak is edged with feathers and the edges of the front and all around the bottom are bordered with netted silk fringe.

**Effect of a Well-cut Corset.**

It is extraordinary what a transformation a well-cut corset will effect in a woman's appearance, and how, without any perceptible pressure, the waist may be lengthened even as much as two inches. This is really a very important consideration at the present time, when princess dresses and eelskin skirts are so popular, and any one who wishes to have an elegant and graceful appearance should first of all give consideration to the corset, otherwise the work of the dressmaker is likely to be lost.

**Sequins Are Fashionable.**

Sequins are to be seen on many things this winter, particularly on thin goods with lace effects. White goods of net are covered with them, but they must be sewed on carefully, and home sewing is usually better than that of the shops. It is better to have no sequins at all than a sequin off here and there. It is a degree worse than a missing boot button.

**Skirts That Are the Mode.**

This season's styles fulfil a twofold mission. They make the stout woman look thinner, and the slender woman becomes a dream of loveliness and shapeliness when she dons a princess effect gown, a short jacket and Directoire hat. Every skirt is tight fitting about the hips and very much flared about the bottom, sleeves are small, collars high, some basques are shown, and fringe is the acme of novelty.

The favorite model in skirts will be a seamless circular shape, fitting like a glove over the hips and back, and flaring at the bottom to the width of from four and a half to five yards. This flare is very perceptible as the



A PICTURESQUE MODEL.

tend to messiness, and when the professionals lean that way also the result is something to admire—"wonder at" is the original meaning.

In their search for the picturesque the new hats are piled so high and swathed so deep with superfluous ornaments that all the symmetry of the head and figure is lost in these monuments of misdirected industry. While the large toque with rolling



TRIMMED WITH STITCHINGS. A HOUSE BODICE. RED FLANNEL BLOUSE.

brim of velvet comes nearer than any other to being the prevailing mode, as almost invariably becoming to pretty hair, the small, close-draped velvet toque, worn over the face, is also a favorite to accompany tailor dress. It is trimmed with stitched bands of cloth or silk, and a bird or an airy butterfly is added for garniture.

A striking piece of headgear is the accompanying example taken from the Dry Goods Economist. It is a hat of brown and blue velvet, with roses merging from cerise to dark-brown surrounding the brim. The butterfly shows both colorings on a cream ground. The collet is of velvet, mousseline de soie and renaissance lace with gold buttons and cord.

**Waists, Bodices and Blouses.**

None but flattering comments are to be made of dress waists as they now reveal themselves, and powerful as has been the effort to coax women to accept more decoration on their skirts, the waists, bodices and blouses of the majority of costumes continue to steal all the real glory and color.

Stitching is in high favor as a finish for wraps and costumes. A fine example of a waist trimmed with stitchings is shown in the large engraving. Several gowns were seen with no other trimming save rows and rows of fanciful stitching in some contrasting color.

Blouses are now exactly like those of previous years. They are made tighter and over a very close fitting lining. The pleats, which used to be on the upper part of the bodice, and were widened at the breast, puffing out and enlarging the waist, are continued to the belt, kept flat, and sewed with lingerie stitch. These pleats are arranged in every possible way, longwise, horizontally, diagonally, as insertions, etc. Collars are still made waisted.

skirt is held up, with one hand holding the bottom and one the belt. The front breadth, which used to be cut perfectly straight in order to insure a "good hanging skirt," is now perceptibly flared in the skirts, which are made on the gored pattern, which will also be very much worn. The shirred



A SHIRRED SKIRT.

skirt design here shown is one of the season's favorites.

**KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.**

SMALL AMOUNT AWARDED.

Beaver Widow Sues New Brighton for the Loss of Her Husband and Receives \$500—Had Asked for \$20,000.

A verdict for \$500 was rendered at Beaver last week in the damage suit of Josephine Peregizer against the borough of New Brighton. She sued for \$20,000 damages for the loss of her husband, whose death, it was alleged, was due to the negligence of the defendant.

The following pensions were issued last week: William F. Cline, Lewis Run, \$6; Robert Dazoff, Pittsburg, \$6 to \$8; John J. Southworth, Worthington, \$6 to \$8; Robert D. Williams, Martinsburg, \$12 to \$14; William Johnston, Indiana, \$12 to \$17; David Risinger, Homer City, \$14 to \$17; Charles Young, Soldiers and Sailors Home, Erie, \$6; Joseph A. Arthur, Strattonville, \$6; David R. Porter, Pittsburg, \$6; George Ankerman, dead, Irwin, \$10 to \$12; Archibald Hill, Sharon, \$14 to \$17; William F. Home, Pleasantville, \$6 to \$8; Augustus Pease, Indiana, \$6 to \$8; Hannah L. Metcalf, Potter Brook, \$8; Rachael R. Lange, Pittsburg, \$8; Abigail R. Fulkerson, Sugar Grove, \$8; Ella Ankerman, Irwin, \$8; Howard Miner, Mt. Pleasant, \$12; Thomas Lindsay, Pittsburg, \$6; Alfred Miley, Mount Alto, Franklin, \$6; John Gallagher, Pittsburg, \$6; William E. Hill, Kellys station, \$8; Samuel Hoke, Scottdale, \$8 to \$12; Emma Rogers, Knoxville (Tioga county), \$17; Samuel M. Gibson, Cochran's Mills, \$8; James M. McCreary, Deronda, \$6; George Ferris, dead, Monaca, \$14 to \$17; Albert Irish, Conneautville, \$14; Bessie White, Kirby, \$8 to \$10; Mary Duffy, Bolivar, \$8; Catelyne H. Smith, Cowansque, \$8; Mary A. Cotwell, Rimersburg, \$8; Anna C. Shearer, Freeport, \$8; Mary J. Cramer, Grant, \$8; Warren Pittman, Pittsburg, \$8; James J. Johnston, Pittsburg, \$12; William Turner, Pittsburg, \$6; William Atkinson, Bennett, \$6; Frank Henry, dead, Mendville, \$10 to \$12; Jonathan Moon, Ohioyle, \$6 to \$10; Thomas Price, Circleville, \$8 to \$10; Peter Williams, Mahoningtown, \$8 to \$12; Peter Herrmann, Erie, \$16; Linda Henry, Meadville, \$8; Alice V. Reikert, Reesville, \$8.

At New Castle the police arrested Lafayette Gates, a well-known man, for acting suspiciously on the street. He had been under a recent arrest, the time when he confessed that he had robbed a billiard room the night before, stealing billiard balls, cigars and tobacco. He said he had secreted the billiard balls a mile and a half in the country and the tobacco and cigars he had taken to the house of John White. The officers secured a warrant, found the cigars and tobacco and arrested White on a charge of receiving stolen goods. The two men were placed in jail. Gates is an uncle of Fulton Gates, who was sent to the workhouse from Allegheny county some months ago on a charge of obtaining money under false pretense and fraud. Word has been received at New Castle by Dr. John McKinley announcing the death of Samuel McKinley in California a few days ago from injuries he received while attending to his horse. He was formerly a resident of New Castle, and was a member of the lower house of the legislature during 1865-66. He also served one term in the state senate during 1873-77. He had only one son, Hon. Frederick McKinley, a judge of one of the courts of California.

The official returns of the recent state election, all of which are now on file in the state department, follows: State treasurer—Barnett, 438,000; Cressy, 237,512; Caldwell, Prohibitionist, 18,072; Watkins, Peopler, 1,985; Clark Socialist Laborer, 3,753; Woods, Union Reform, 598. Supreme court judge—Brown, 461,889; Mestrezat, 298,403; Ricketts, 18,265. Superior court judge—Mitchell, 457,810; Reilly, 301,454; Robinson, 18,812.

William Scott, a colored man of Wampum, was sent to jail from Beaver Falls recently in default of \$1,000 bail, to answer the charge of stealing a steam driller from the stone quarries of Charles H. Bowman of Pittsburg, situated on the Beaver river a short distance north of here. The driller is valued at \$400, and required a two-horse team to transport.

Annie, the 3-year-old daughter of M. Zeefe, of Butler, was burned to death a few days ago. The mother had gone out on an errand, leaving the child and her 5-year-old brother in the house. While playing with matches the little girl set fire to her clothing, and when the mother returned she was lying in the yard, dead.

Thirty years ago John Harmon left the Ligonier valley to go West, leaving a family. A few days ago Burgess W. J. Potts of Ligonier received word from Oakland, Cal., that John Harmon, a very wealthy man, had died and that his estate was awaiting claimants. His three sons were found and will receive the fortune.

The will of the late Mary Gregg at Washington, Pa., bequeathed \$1,000 to an Anti-Cruelty society, \$1,000 to the Audubon society, \$500 to W. H. Wimer, \$500 to W. T. Schell, the remainder of the estate is to be equally divided between the Presbyterian hospital, Allegheny, and the Washington hospital.

Private Jesse J. E. Wall of the Tenth regiment has been appointed military instructor at the Uniontown Soldiers' Orphans' school. Private Wall is a son of J. Sutton Wall, chief draughtsman in the internal affairs bureau, and accompanied Col. Barnett in his stumping tour of the state.

Matthew Casey, of Tarentum, was reunited at Newark, N. J., last week to a sister for whom he had been vainly searching for 44 years. He was formerly an employe in the Carnegie mills in Pittsburg and retired with a modest competence to live with his family in Tarentum.

Thieves the other night entered the store of Isaac S. Dickel at Altoona, and stole \$100 worth of merchandise. Patrolman Eiper discovered the robbers while they were in the store, and pursued them for almost a mile, but they escaped.

Two collisions of trains on the Philadelphia & Reading railroad at Reading resulted in the death of F. H. Kramer, conductor, the serious injury of Benjamin Burke, engineer, and the probable fatal injury of Jeremiah Sullivan, brakeman.

Citizens of Alexandria and farmers of adjoining townships are to start a bank, beginning with a capital stock of \$25,000.

The Pennsylvania engineering works of New Castle, capital \$150,000 was chartered.

Congressman Joseph C. Sibley and General Charles Miller are the head of a company which will manufacture pneumatic tools and air compressors in Franklin.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hartman, of Sharon, who were married at Cleveland on November 11, 1895, announced the fact last week for the first time. C. H. Sibley, a Scottdale merchant tailor, has closed his business to go to Manila, where he will work in the service of the government as a tailor. New Castle city council elected John J. Jackson city clerk in place of his predecessor.