GOSSAMER THREADS.

(On a Scotch Moor.)

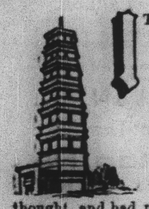
When fairies dance on the moor by night,—
(Golden hair in the heather)—
Stray silken threads from their dainty heads
May haply cling to the flowering ling
Or the pink and purple heather.
(Mine eyes are blind in the mystic light,
But none the less 'tis a winsome sight.)

When morning breaks and the fairies flee,—
(Gossamer threads in the heather)—
The moorland shines with glist'ning lines,
Like harps new-strung with gold, and slung
On the pink and purple heather.
(Gossamer threads are all I see,
But none the less are they harps for me.)

And when the wind breathes, far and near,—
(Æolian harps in the heather)—
Sweet music rings from the tiny strings,
And wild and free is the harmony
Thro' the pink and purple heather.
(Never a note may reach mine ear,
But none the less is it sweet to hear.)
—C. Jeff-Sharp, in Pall Mall Gazette.

HOW I WON MY BRIDE.

BY J. F. AVERY.



IT was a warm summer's evening, and I had left the windows and doors of the office open, for the sake of a refreshing draught.

I had been sitting for some time at my desk, plunged in a fit of the deepest thought, and had not heard any one enter, when suddenly the words:

"Are you a lawyer, sir?" caused me to start violently.

Rising from my seat and turning up the gas jet on the table, I turned and surveyed my interlocutor, who proved to be a well-dressed, rather good-looking man of forty or thereabouts, of middle stature, and possessed of a small, piercing pair of eyes, which returned my gaze unflinchingly.

"The business on which I come," he said, taking off his hat, and fixing his keen, black eyes upon my face, will require your services until late in the night, if not until to-morrow morning. My niece, who resides some miles from London, is dangerously ill, and her recovery being extremely doubtful, she desires to make her will. For this purpose I have applied to you; promising you, should you accede to my request, any fee you may demand."

I communed with myself for a few moments, eyed the man suspiciously, and then asked the distance to the young lady's residence and the mode of conveyance thither.

"About five or ten miles," he responded, handing me his card, on which I read "Martin Jackson, London Wall." "It is a short distance from Kew, and as a train does not leave London Bridge for some time, I have provided a carriage and driver, which waits in the street. May I consider your services as engaged?"

I responded that he might, and a few minutes sufficed to find us ensconced in a close carriage, which took a westerly direction at a moderate speed.

My companion meantime enlightened me with an account of his niece's sickness and previous history; and, an hour after leaving the place of starting, we found ourselves about a mile from Kew Bridge. I was a young man, and my nervousness and suspicions of the man beside me may be excused when his evident anxiety in employing myself, an inexperienced lawyer, are considered. His story, too, did not sound consistent in all respects, for he spoke of his niece, Miss Blanche Pickering, as being at times subject to short fits of insanity.

When the carriage stopped it was in front of a large, dark-looking building of stone, standing a short distance back from the road, and surrounded by tall poplars.

One thing struck me as rather curious as I walked up the gravel walk to the mansion and tended to arouse my suspicions once more. Jackson dismissed the carriage, after paying the driver, with a few low, whispered words, the import of which I was unable to ascertain, and the hack turned sharply, as if to retrace the road to London. I said nothing, however, but shifting a revolver which I always carry into a more convenient position in my inner breast pocket, entered the house with my companion, who unlocked the door with a latchkey, and ushered me into the parlor, which was poorly lighted by a hanging lamp.

Having seen me seated by a table on which were spread refreshments Jackson left me for a short time, and returned shortly with a large, well-built man, whom he introduced as Mr. Cooper, his cousin. This latter individual took a seat beside me, and pouring out some wine requested me to join him, which I courteously refused, on the plea of being a teetotaler.

Jackson had left the room again. A short time after, by request of Cooper, I followed him up the staircase into the gloomy hall above, and into a room where Jackson was seated by the side of a bed, apparently in conversation with some one lying there.

It was no wonder that I gazed long and earnestly at the countenance of the woman who reclined there. A more perfect face I have never seen—pale, and with an expression of care and pain, it might have been, yet there was no trace of sickness or disease, and as my eye wandered from those beautiful features, the sad yet sweetly smiling eyes, down to the white, plump hand which rested in the large brown one of Jackson's, I felt that there was some mystery in the case, and that he had been untruthful in his revelations. Suddenly the man arose, and dropping the lady's hand drew up a chair opposite to my own, and with an impatient, uneasy exclamation, brought my investigation to a termination.

"You will draw out the ordinary formula of a testament," he said, giving the young girl a close, scrutinizing look, in which I could detect a warning expression, "writing as I dictate. Miss Pickering has already acquainted me with her destined disposal of her property, and will acquiesce when it is finished. I suppose her affirmation will be all that is necessary?"

I was somewhat surprised at the strangeness of the request, but replied:

"Certainly, if I am confident that she is compos mentis, and she too ill to dictate the instructions herself."

Here a slight exclamation broke from the lips of the occupant of the bed, as if about to frame a word or sentence; but she was checked by Jackson, who, with a threatening scowl, evidently not meant for my observation, said:

"Do not exert yourself, my dear niece; I will do all that is necessary," and then, as I drew the writing materials before me, he quickly leaned over toward her, and hissed in her ear, "Remember—be careful!" with such emphasis as to cause her to sink, pale and trembling, back among the pillows of the bed.

A half-hour elapsed, and the will had been completed. All Blanche Pickering's property, personal and real, was to be divided between the man Jackson and his son Henry, with the exception of a few small legacies. Then I read it, and after propounding the few necessary interrogatories to the legator, which were answered in a low, trembling affirmative, I requested her to sign it.

Drawing my chair up to her side, with the paper and pen in my hand, I waited for her to obey my request—intimating to Jackson that it would be as well to have Cooper as a witness.

The latter individual had, evidently, fallen asleep, for, a call not bringing him to the bedside, Jackson arose and walked to where his confrere lay.

At this moment, and with the rapidity of light, the girl's hand caught my own, and leaning my head downward, so that I could listen to what she might desire to say, I heard her whisper, in passionate, beseeching words:

"I am forced to this! They intend to kill me! For heaven's sake, help me!"

Then she sank back, and before Jackson had been able to observe us, we had both resumed our former relative positions.

At last the will had been signed, witnessed and sealed, and, hat in hand, I stood at the table awaiting my client's further pleasure, as if I had not the idea in my mind of returning before morning, and that, too, with an officer of justice.

I followed my servitor down the stairs, listened to his untruthful regrets that the carriage must have returned to the house, as agreed upon, and then gone to the city; declined his offer to remain for the night, and having been directed to the station, stood once more in the open air.

Suddenly a wild scream of terror assailed my ears. In a moment I was again up the steps, and turning the knob of the door in an ineffectual attempt to gain admittance.

I was about to attempt to force an entrance through the window, when the door was flung suddenly open, and the man Cooper stood before me.

He discovered me at once and struck at me with his clenched fist. Evading the blow, I whipped out my revolver, and, striking him with the butt end, knocked him senseless upon the steps.

I was again about to turn and enter, when the form of Jackson dashed down the staircase through the open door, and I felt myself in his grasp.

I saw at once that he was unarmed, and elevating my pistol, fired; but the shot was turned aside and the weapon knocked from my hand to the ground.

Then ensued a fearful struggle between us, in which we both were precipitated down the steps upon the gravel walk below—I uppermost.

It was, perhaps, for two minutes that I held him by the throat, dealing him blows with my disengaged hand—he having the other in his strong grasp—when, with a dexterous twist of his powerful arm, he turned me aside, and I lay prostrate upon the ground with the vicelike grip of his strong fingers grasping me by the throat until my eyes were staring from their sockets and every muscle became inactive.

Seizing a large stone which lay near him, he raised it in his left hand and was about to strike me on the head when a sharp, loud report rang on the air. The form of the ruffian fell back—his fingers relaxed their grasp.

A form in white passed before my uncertain vision; and then, for the space of five minutes, I was utterly unconscious.

When at length the mind awoke from its stupor Miss Pickering was bending over me, chafing my temples and attempting to perform what nature had done—restore me to sensibility.

From her I learned that she had risen from her bed at the exit of the two ruffians from her room, and, observing my dangerous situation, had fired at Jackson just as he was about to strike me with the stone, with my revolver, which she had picked up on the steps.

I also learned that her scream was caused by the resolution of the murderous twain to start after and murder me, fearing that she had communicated something to me which might upset their well-laid plans.

Having securely bound the still unconscious Cooper and removed the corpse of Jackson into the house, we awaited the coming morn—Miss Pickering meanwhile informing me of her imprisonment by Jackson for over a year, and his resolve to force her to make a will, and then make way with her. Her parents having died and left her sole heiress to a large property, her appointed guardian, Jackson, a half-brother of her mother, was playing for no diminutive stake.

The next morning a farmer's wagon conveyed Cooper to the city, and the affair having been reported to the proper authorities he was arrested and conveyed to jail. His trial took place a month later, and he was rewarded with seven years' penal servitude.

Miss Pickering was entirely exonerated from all blame in the killing of Jackson, and her estate properly administered a few months later—she having been of age for over a year. Not long after Miss Blanche Pickering became Mrs. Avery.

The will and revolver are still in our possession—the sole mementos of that exciting night when I almost lost my life and gained a bride.—Spare Moments.

WORLD'S BIGGEST BEEHIVE.

California Curiosity Which People Gaze At From a Respectful Distance.

Did you ever see a bee tree, with a swarm of bees around it? Well, magnify this about 10,000 times and you will have a slight idea of a natural beehive in Mendocino County, California. It is a rift in the face of a cliff, and tradition has it that there is a large cave on the inside, where the myriads of busy insects make their homes.

This great natural curiosity is known to the residents of the adjacent country as "Bee Rock," and they have grown to look upon it as commonplace, when in reality it is the only beehive of the kind in existence.

There is no danger of a person getting very near this natural beehive without knowing it, for at all hours of the day a swarm of insects hover about several hundred feet in all directions. An incessant, maddening buzz fills the air that can be heard an eighth of a mile and serves as a warning not to venture too near. But men do venture near after having first put on a suit of leather clothing, fastened a mask of wire screen around their hat brim and lighted a good big torch. These precautions are absolutely necessary.

It is almost impossible to make out just where the entrance to this natural beehive is. There is a sort of cavern in the cliff that seems to have a crack through the inner wall from top to bottom, but most of the bees hover around a hole about eighteen inches wide and appear to make that the point of ingress and egress. Many days it is impossible to even see the cliff, so thickly covered is it with insects, and they roll in and out of the opening like a stream of molasses.

During the summer dead birds can always be seen on the ground around the mouth of the hive. They have been stung to death while attempting to fly through the the swarm of insects. Four-footed creatures never venture within a half mile, seeming to know that death lurks there. In front of the mouth of the hive there is a pile of dried honey that has flowed from the interior. It looks like a heap of molten lava that has been hardened after being discharged from a volcano.

A party of men living in the vicinity claim to have entered the beehive several years ago. They selected a cold day in winter, when the bees were half dormant, and poured coal oil and benzine around and into the opening. Then they made a big fire of wood, so that the whole cavern was filled with flames. Then they poked the red-hot embers down into the opening and so killed every bee in it.

But there was not much to see after the men got outside. Only a large cave, with the walls covered with wax and dried honey and enough of the sweetness in pools in the bottom to last a big city for a several years. Of course, the honey was unfit for use on account of being full of dead bees and ashes from the fire. The men, however, did not linger in the cave any great length of time, as it was foul-smelling and stifling. Although countless millions of bees had been destroyed on this occasion, the next summer they were as numerous as ever and just as vicious.

Indians of the neighborhood say that in "the good old days" the bad men of their tribe were bound hand and foot and carried to within a short distance of the beehive by men wrapped in blankets. There the helpless creatures were left to suffer the awful agony of being stung to death.

And It Was.

Just before a recent dinner given in honor of a colonial magnate a young dandy, whose chief claim to distinction seemed to be the height of his collar and an eyeglass, addressing a stranger, said:

"Beastly nuisance, isn't it? Spoke to that fellah over there—took him for a gentleman; some blessed head waiter, I suppose?"

"Oh, no," replied the other; "that is the guest of the evening."

"Hang it all, now, is it?" said the other. "Look here, old fellow, as you know everybody, would you mind sitting next me at the dinner, and telling me who every one is?"

"I should like to very much," replied the other; "but you see I can't—I'm the blessed head waiter!"—Tit-Bits.

Sawdust Suits.

Suits at law have been instituted at Montpelier, Vt., to prevent the turning of sawdust into the river, on the ground that when the river overflows it now no longer leaves rich alluvial deposits on the bordering lands, but incumbers them instead with sawdust. The objection to sawdust in California streams grows out of the fact that it destroys the fish in them.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

FATAL EXPLOSION.

Mother's Futile Attempt to Rescue Her Child From Death.

The 3-year-old daughter of Mrs. Stephen D. Corbin, of Altoona, was burned to death the other morning in a fire which destroyed the carpenter shop and stable of Contractor John Plummer. It is supposed the children were playing with matches. The loss on the building and contents is $5,000.

A small son of Edward Shaffer of Allegheny township was fatally burned a few days ago, having set fire to his clothing while playing with matches. His mother was badly burned in endeavoring to extinguish the flames.

The following pensions were granted last week: James McCormick, Enslow, Allegheny, $8; John Lehner, Upton, Franklin, $8; Chas. C. Van Gleson, President, Venango, $3 to $6; Sylvester Bennett, Houtzdale, Clearfield, $8 to $12; Robert B. Clark, Fay, Lawrence, $16 to $24; John McCracken, Cokeville, Westmoreland, $14 to $24; Robert Summerville, Mattie, Bedford, $17 to $24; William T. Smith, Willett, Indiana, $6 to $8; William Howell, Gallitzin, $16 to $17; Henry J. Heimbach, Reedsville, Mifflin, $72; Charlotte Woembacher, Ridgeway, Elk, $8; Amanda M. Randall, Franklin, $8; Mary A. Holden, Tracy, Erie, $8; John J. Esher, Soldiers' home, Erie, $6; Bezaleel Cameron, Franklin, $10; Jacob Schultz, Loshley, Fulton, $8; John H. Shields, Scrantondale, Clarion, $8; Abram S. Hartz, Waynesboro, $6; Michael Coakley, Pleasantville, Venango, $8; Michael Clark, Braddock, $6; Joseph Preston, DeHaven, Allegheny, $10; Alonzo Randolph, Apollo, $6; John T. Frazier, Mahon, Beaver, $6; James Archer, Hydetown, Crawford, $8 to $12; Albert Wilhelm, Sweden Valley, Potter, $4 to $8; William J. Welch (dead), Franklin, $12; James Wise, Washington, $[illegible] to $8; Silas F. Templeton, Deckers Point, Indiana, $6 to $8; David Huber, Johnstown, $6 to $8; Eliza J. Hess, Uniontown, $8; Elizabeth A. McCouch, Kittanning, $8; Annie C. Zellers, Rosecrans, Clinton, $12; Jacob Rider, McClellantown, Fayette, $6; George W. Schell, James Creek, Huntingdon, $6; Arthur McLain, Soldiers' home, Erie, $6; Hezekiah Bard, Altoona, $8; William G. Jack, Freedom, Beaver, $6; John McRoberts, Pittsburg, $6; Henry Dietrich, Pittsburg, $6; James Johnson, Soldiers' home, Erie, $8; John C. Hoover, Altoona, $10 to $30; Edward C. Eagerton, California, $17 to $50; Ellen Durbin, Gallitzin, $8; Sarah C. Fisher, Lewistown, $2.

A family feud was at the bottom of the troubles that led to the murder of Jim Welsh by his 15-year-old nephew, Peter Goodwin, at old Spring Hollow, in the mountains, near Uniontown recently. Young Goodwin had taken the punishment of Welsh's children into his own hands during the day, and when he was met at a neighbor's house by Welsh there was trouble. Both went outside to settle the matter in mountain style with their fists. As Goodwin passed through the yard he picked up a heavy hammer and struck Welsh over the heart with it. The blow killed him almost instantly, and the youthful murderer had to flee to escape the fury of the mob that wanted to string him up. The murderer's father took him over a byroad to Uniontown to escape the mob and delivered him to the jailor.

The Third brigade was inspected 2,266 men and 195 officers volunteering, and 258 men and 5 officers refusing. The latter number was divided as follows: Twelfth regiment, 17 men; Eighth, 66 men and one officer; Fourth, 25 men; Ninth, 56 men and three officers; Thirteenth, 75 men and one officer; Battery A, 10 men and 1 officer; Governor's troop, 12 men. Summarizing the results of the entire inspection, 7,756 men and 570 officers have volunteered out of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, and 776 men and 14 officers have refused.

Battery B was formally sworn into the service of the United States Sunday afternoon. The suddenness of the ceremony was surprising. Without warning Captain Hunt was ordered to present his command at the Exposition building at Mt. Gretna, for immediate muster.

The Halsted mine of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company at Duryea was the scene of an accident the other evening which killed John Monghan, Stephen Jenkins and John Titus. The men were engaged in repairing the lining of the shaft, which had been damaged by the cave-in last week. Heavy timbers were being lowered, the rope attached to them slipped off, and the timbers struck the platform upon which the three workmen were standing, with great force, demolishing it and precipitating the men to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of 300 feet. The bodies were horribly mangled.

Charges of extravagance have been lodged by Detective John Toole, before the Schuylkill County Commissioners, against Prison Warden C. W. Brower.

Suit for $50,000 damages has been brought at Bellefonte against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company by Mrs. Joseph Fox, whose husband was killed by a train.

Lieut. Werlick, U. S. N., completed the inspection of 12-inch navy projectiles at the Carpenter steel works, at Reading, and a shipment of 150 of them was made last week to Washington. The weight of the shipment was nearly 75 tons. Work is progressing rapidly on 5, 6, 8 and 10-inch navy shells.

Benjamin Smith had a literal hair's breadth escape with his life recently at Mansfield. He was walking along a country road, a mile east of town, when a man leaped from behind a fence and shot at him. The bullet passed so close to his head as to cut off a tuft of hair, which was found inside his hat.

James M. Somerville, aged 22, died near Philipsburg last week. It was supposed until a few days ago that his trouble was consumption. During a coughing spasm last Friday he coughed up a live toad, weighing nearly two ounces. He was too weak to recover.

The steam dredge Big Bill, owned by Dubar & Sullivan, was destroyed by fire the other night at Schooner ledge, on the Delaware river, below Chester. The loss is estimated at from $30,000 to $45,000. The dredge has been engaged for three seasons deepening the channel where the cruiser Brooklyn was damaged a couple of years ago.

The other evening, while two lads were digging near the railroad at the lower end of the town of Ramey, they unearthed a bag containing almost $200 in gold. Efforts are now being made to discover how the gold happened to be there. Evidently it had not been buried long.

A large building, in which were located the Honesdale shirt factory and the W. G. Hakesey paper box factory, was destroyed by fire a few days ago. Loss, $40,000; insurance, $25,000. About 70 hands are thrown out of employment.

After deliberating all night a Northumberland County jury acquitted Michael Ferda, Saul Moslavoy and Sylvester Moselwicz of the murder of Frank Hunta.

CONGRESS.

Senate.

The Senate committee on appropriations Monday reached a conclusion on the postoffice appropriation bill, increasing the total appropriation to the extent of $442,000, and reducing it $330,000, leaving a net increase of $112,000, and making an aggregate of $99,224,300.

The senate committee on finance resumed its sitting Tuesday, hearing Secretary Gage on the necessity for including in the war revenue bill authority for the issuance of bonds. The secretary supplied the committee all the information in his possession as to the cost of the war up to date, and also the best estimates obtainable of future expenses. He told the committee that the best estimates obtainable indicate that for the next two months the war will increase the governmental expenditure about $50,000,000.

By that time the entire amount of the treasury with the exception of the gold reserve would be exhausted, and $30,000,000 of the reserve taken. Mr. Gage also stated it to be his opinion that the revenues would decrease on account of the war. In view of these facts he considered some authorization for the issue of bonds necessary. He said no estimate had been made of the cost of the war for a year hence, as no one could say how long it would continue.

When the amendment of the committee striking from the bill the appropriation of $300,000 for rural free delivery came up Mr. Quay explained that in the opinion of the committee the results of the experiment thus far scarcely warranted Congress in going forward with the experiment. It meant the abolition of the country postoffices. Mr. Pettigrew declared that the farming people of the country were not demanding rural free delivery, and he regarded it as a humbug. Just before adjournment the senate passed without debate an important war measure authorizing the president and general officers of the army to supply the Cuban insurgents with arms and munitions of war and empowering officers of the army serving in Cuba to supply needy inhabitants of the island with medicines.

The Senate committee on military affairs gave some attention Wednesday to the question of furnishing arms and other supplies to the Cubans. The bill before the committee authorizes American officers in command to make the distribution proposed. A conference with the House committee has been arranged on the bill providing for engineers and yellow fever immunes to go to Cuba.

The Senate conferees all insist on a consolidation of all measures authorizing special forces, including cowboys, immunes and engineers, so as to make the total number 16,000, and leave the distribution of them to the President.

House.

The passage of the emergency war appropriation bill was the feature of Monday's action by the House. The naval appropriation bill, with the Senate amendment (providing for the payment of officers of the navy for the use of their inventions by the Government) stricken out, was reported from conference and passed. It now goes to the President. A significant feature of the army emergency appropriation bill is an appropriation of $156,654 for the expeditionary force to Cuba. With it is a foot note from Major General Miles urging that the fund is required with the least possible delay, explaining that the $50,000,000 appropriation for National defense has been allotted and there is no money available for this particular object. The Cuban expedition paragraph includes $42,000 for "unforeseen contingent expenses," which involve immediate expenditures for purposes of urgency; $23,225 for portable electric outfit, and $13,065 for intrenching tools. The largest item under any head is that of $13,000,000 for clothing, camp and garrison equipage.

Wheat promised to be an uneventful and uninteresting session of the house last Tuesday was thrown suddenly, after three hours' consideration of private bills, into a session of spirited speechmaking among Democratic members that savored at times much of acrimony. The storm was precipitated by Mr. Lewis (Dem., Wash.), who referred in the course of a speech to the recent vote of Mr. Cummings of New York in support of the war revenue bill with its incorporated bond feature. He made reference to Mr. Cummings' assertion that this period was a time for placing country above party, intimating that the New York member had served the Republican party and perhaps contributed to the satisfaction of unpatriotic monopolists and capitalists. This brought an impassioned and patriotic speech in reply from Mr. Cummings, interspersed with some sarcastic comments that intensified the interest and called an outpouring of members from the cloak rooms.

The House Thursday passed the Alaskan land bill and the labor arbitration measure, which had received wide indorsement by labor organizations. The bill provides that the commissioner of labor shall, upon the request of either party, endeavor to amicably settle disputes, and in case the endeavor shall fail, then the controversy may be submitted to arbitration of a board of three persons, each party to the controversy to name one arbitrator and the two thus named shall name a third. The agreement to submit must contain stipulations that the arbitration shall be begun within five days and the award shall be filed within 20 days from the appointment of the third arbitrator, that the award shall continue in force for one year and that the employer shall not dismiss nor shall any employe, dissatisfied with the award, quit work under three months, without giving 10 days' notice. The act recognizes organized labor, and provides penalties for employers discriminating against employes because of their connection with such organizations.

Representative Newlands of Nevada has introduced a joint resolution for the annexation of Hawaii. It provides for the confirmation of the cession by the Hawaiian republic of all rights of sovereignty over the island and their dependencies and of cession and transfer to the United States of all public property and all its rights and appurtenances, assumes the Hawaiian public debt to not exceeding $4,000,000, prohibits further immigration of Chinese and appoints five commissioners, at least two of whom shall be residents of Hawaii, to recommend necessary legislation. The resolution declares the islands and their dependencies "thereby annexed as a part of the territory of the United States, and subject to the sovereign dominion thereof."

Women as Judges

Among the "after-dinner stories" of famous people in the Ladies' Home Journal is this one illustrating Hon. William M. Evarts' brilliancy at repartee: At a reception in Washington Mr. Evarts was once drawn into a discussion between two ladies.

"Mr. Evarts," said one, "do you not think I am right in saying that a woman is always the best judge of another woman's character?"

"Madame," replied Mr. Evarts, "she is not only the best judge, but also the best executioner."

In the Polar regions the sea contains less salt than those near the equator.

AMONG THE INDUSTRIES.

Cramps Secure the Contract for Building Two Russian War Ships.

The Cramp Shipbuilding Company of Philadelphia last week received cable advices from Charles H. Cramp, its President, stating that contracts have been signed between the Russian Government and himself for the construction of two important vessels. One is a battleship of approximately 12,500 tons displacement, to have a guaranteed speed of 13 knots per hour and carrying 1,000 tons of coal. The other is a protected cruiser of about 6,100 tons displacement, to develop a speed of 23 knots per hour and carrying 725 tons of coal. This is the first award of a contract for the construction of a battleship to be built abroad in the history of the Russian navy. And the protected cruiser is the largest and most important of that type ever ordered by the Russian Government in any foreign shipyard.

United States Consul Bouchsein, at Barmen, Germany, under date of March 11, advises the state department that Joseph Kohlendorfer of Lindshut, Bavaria, has invented a new process for making petroleum briquettes, by which petroleum refuse is worked up in such a manner as to assume the form of a solid substance, easily handled, and constituting a cheap and convenient fuel.

The Safety Emery Wheel company, of Springfield, O., received an order recently from a Chicago firm for 4,500 emery wheels. Most of them will be used to point projectiles the firm is making for United States warships. Another large order for wheels to be used for a similar purpose has just been received from the Carnegie company. The firm is running night and day.

M. H. Buehler, general manager of the Pennsylvania Telephone Company, recorded a mortgage to the Harrison Trust Company of Chambersburg in the sum of $500,000, on the entire property of the company in the several counties of the state in which it operates. The mortgage is for improvements and big extensions, connecting with new lines in Maryland and Virginia. Bonds have been issued.

Engineer Neeland of the Carnegie Steel Company is at Youngstown with a corps of draughtsmen detailing and perfecting plans for the Ohio Steel Company's improvements. The latter will include the erection of two big blast furnaces, and altogether will involve an expenditure of about $1,000,000. The furnaces are to be in some respects like the great Carnegie furnaces. The bessemer metal is to be conveyed, while molten, directly to the steel department converters.

In accordance with the agreement of the Pig Iron Producers' Association, the Sharpsville, Pa., furnace banked down for 30 days. Other furnaces in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys will shut down in their turns. About 200 men are employed.

Furnace No. 2 of the Dunbar, Pa., Furnace Company was banked last week. The shutting down is caused by the overproduction of pig iron. The furnace has been running steadily for the last 16 months. Over 300 men will be idle.

It is reported at Sharpsville, Pa., that the Claire furnace, operated by M. A. Hanna & Co., of Cleveland, will soon be controlled by the Carnegie Company.

The City mills of New Brighton, Pa., have been sold to the Valley Electric Company for $12,000. The new owners will at once put the plant in good running order.

The Lochiel furnace, Harrisburg, Pa., idle for years, is about to start on spiegel iron for the Pennsylvania Steel

The right to engage in trade in the Kongo Free State is open without restriction or distinction to persons of all nationalities, but traffic in imported firearms is prohibited, as is also the sale of liquors except in certain districts west of the Inkissi on the lower Kongo.

MARKETS

PITTSBURG.

Grain, Flour and Fe.		
WHEAT—No. 1 red	$ 1 14@	1 15
No. 2 red	1 12	1 13
CORN—No. 2 yellow, car	43	44
No. 2 yellow, shelled	40	41
Mixed car	39	40
OATS—No. 2 white	36	37
No. 3 white	35	36
RYE—No. 1	69	70
FLOUR—Winter patents	5 10	6 25
Fancy straight winter	5 90	6 00
Rye flour	400	4 15
HAY—No. 1 timothy	10 75	11 00
Clover, No. 1	7 00	8 00
Hay, from wagons	10 50	11 00
FEED—No. 1 White Mid., ton	17 00	18 50
Brown middlings	15 50	16 00
Bran, bulk	15 00	16 00
STRAW—Wheat	5 00	5 50
Oat	5 00	5 50
SEEDS—Clover, ⅝ lb	5 50@	5 75
Timothy, prime	1 35	1 55
Dairy Products.		
BUTTER—Elgin Creamery $	18	19
Ohio creamery	16	17
Fancy country roll	13	13
CHEESE—Ohio, new	8	9
New York, new	9	10
Fruits and Vegetables.		
BEANS—Hand-picked, ⅝ bu $	1 55	1 65
POTATOES—White, per bu	30	35
CABBAGE—Home-grown, bbl	1 50	1 75
ONIONS—per bu	1 00	1 25
Poultry, Etc.		
CHICKENS, ⅝ pair small $	40@	50
TURKEYS, ⅝ lb	13	14
EGGS—Pa. and Ohio, fresh	10	11

CINCINNATI

FLOUR $	4 80@	5 10
WHEAT—No. 2 red	..	1 16
RYE—No. 2	..	65
CORN—Mixed	..	39
OATS	33	33
EGGS	..	11
BUTTER—Ohio creamery	17	19

PHILADELPHIA.

FLOUR $	4 85@	5 12
WHEAT—No. 2 red	1 20	1 22
CORN—No. 2 mixed	39	40
OATS—No. 2 white	33	37
BUTTER—Creamery, extra	..	17
EGGS—Pa. first	..	11

NEW YORK.

FLOUR—Patents $	4 60@	7 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red	..	1 63
CORN—No. 2	..	46
OATS—White Western	..	37
BUTTER—Creamery	15	17
EGGS—State of Penn.	11	14

LIVE STOCK.

CENTRAL STOCK YARDS, EAST LIBERTY, PA.

CATTLE.		
Prime, 1,300 to 1,400 lbs $	5 00@	5 10
Good, 1,200 to 1,300 lbs	4 90	5 00
Fair, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs	4 60	4 80
Fair fast steers, 900 to 1000 lbs	4 25	4 70
Common, 700 to 900 lbs	3 40	4 10
HOGS.		
Medium	4 10	4 15
Heavy	4 05	4 10
Roughs and stags	3 40	3 60
SHEEP.		
Prime, 95 to 105 lbs, wethers $	4 25@	4 35
Good, 85 to 90 lbs	4 15	4 25
Fair, 70 to 80 lbs	3 75	4 00
Common	3 00	3 50
Culls	1 50	4 25
Fair to good lambs	4 30	4 60