

A STATISTICIAN estimates that the number of passengers carried each day on all the railroads in the world averages six and a half million.

SARA BERNHARDT has dresses enough to fill forty-eight large trunks. If Sara should get lost in them it would be like looking for a needle in a haystack to find her.

A MICHIGAN man to cure himself of the opium habit smoked cloves until he is a confirmed clove-smoker. There is but one downward step left for him to take and that is to contract the cigarette habit.

IN Paris the simplest form of embalming costs usually 800 francs, but should an autopsy have been performed or death occurring through other than natural causes, a much heavier sum would be incurred, rising in some cases to as much as 5,000 francs.

A GIGANTIC pendulum has been suspended from the center of the second platform of the Eiffel Tower. It consists of a bronze wire 380 feet long, with a steel globe weighing about 198 pounds at the end. Its object is to exhibit the rotation of the earth by the Foucault method.

A MONUMENT is to be erected by the State of Minnesota to commemorate the battles and incidents of the Sioux Indian war of 1862, and especially as they relate to the town of New Ulm. The burning of the town and the massacre of the whites are to be shown in two elaborate bas reliefs.

COPIES of the "poems" of the Sweet Singer of Michigan are so scarce that one of them is worth its weight in gold. Why doesn't Ella Wheeler Wilcox buy up all her editions, publish her verses in one book, and sit down like a real-estate buyer to await the fortune that would be certain to come?

THERE is a growing tendency among chemists to regard the elements as varying arrangements—produced at successive stages in the process of cooling—of one original form of atom. Evidence in favor of the hypothesis is claimed in the fact that some elements seem not to have formed in the sun, while yet more are absent from still hotter stars.

A FRENCHMAN has taken advantage of the big neckties which men are wearing and has constructed a camera which fits perfectly into them. The pin forms the nozzle of the machine, and a tube runs down under the waistcoat and is buttoned just under the lower pocket. The camera can be exposed by this application and by pressing the tube an instantaneous photograph can be taken.

A COMPANY has been formed under the supervision and control of the government for the irrigation of the steppes in South Russia. It proposes to dig canals and to lead water to lands belonging to the government, to various rural constituencies, and to private persons. Several government engineers have been detailed for the services of the company, which will begin work in the Crimea.

THE national flag will be saved from ignoble uses hereafter. According to the new law passed by Congress, any person who shall use the national flag, either by printing, painting, or affixing on it any advertisement for public display or private gain, will be held to be guilty of a misdemeanor, for which the United States courts may mulct him \$50 or send him to jail for a period of thirty days.

THE number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the nine months ending September 30, 1890, exclusive of those from the British North American Possessions and Mexico, and comprising about 99 per cent of the total immigration, as compared with the arrivals of the corresponding period of 1889, was (1889) 339,080 and (1890) 361,399—a gain of 42,319 in 1890. And still there is room for a few more good immigrants.

THE authorities of the Government of Taurida, Russia, have issued an order that women bathing in free waters shall wear bathing suits. The women of Yalta protest against this order with an energy and unanimity worthy of a better cause; they are preparing a petition to the general government urging the repeal of the order and declaring that the curative powers of the water have no effect upon those that bathe in clothes.

THE official report that the new State of Washington has in six counties 213,000 acres of developed coal lands within a radius of forty miles of tide-water will do much towards determining the character of the State as a manufacturing center. It is by no means probable that these figures represent a moiety of the coal-producing area of the State, and further encouraging developments in the near future may be anticipated.

A SENSATIONAL preacher died some years ago, says the *Rocky Mountain News*. Often in the excitement of his preaching he would work himself up to such a degree that he would occasionally shed tears, which had a great effect upon his congregation. After his death his sermons were examined by his executors, and it was frequently

found in some of his most exciting sermons that he had inclosed in brackets the words, "Cry here."

If the waiters are in earnest in determination not to have their employers count in tips as a part of their wages, they can easily arrange the whole matter by making it a rule of their association that no member shall receive a fee. Of course when this is once understood the men are put upon a perfectly definite and satisfactory footing with their employers, and the public will not be likely to be incensed at the move. It might be considered, moreover, that the waiters, by refusing to receive gratuities, put themselves upon a self-respecting plane, and consequently one respected by others. It is idle for the waiters to hope to be treated like independent artisans while they extend a catch-penny hand to the tip-giver. Manifestly their only course is either to give up tips and be contented with a fixed and adequate wage, or keep on as they are. They are likely, however, to fail in an attempt to get both.

Strassburg's Wonderful Clock.

Far through all the civilized world stretches the fame of Strassburg's wonderful clock. This clock, which is the second one of its kind put up in Strassburg, was built in 1842, the first one, built in 1573, having fallen into decay. It stands in the south transept of Strassburg Cathedral, and is fifty feet in height by thirty in width. It contains some of the mechanism of the old clock, but is not an exact copy of it.

Tourists crowd the transept, in order to see the automaton procession, at the hour of noon. As the clock strikes twelve the cock flaps his wings and, with apparent effort, gives a feeble, hoarse (it must be confessed), ridiculous crow. Then the procession begins. The apostles are waiting at the door to the left of the upper platform, one by one they cross the stage, pause before the figure of Christ, bow in a jerky fashion, receive the blessing of the uplifted hand, and pass out at the other side of the platform. The second effort of the cock takes place ere the procession is half over, the third when the last apostle has disappeared from view. The central figure on the lower platform holds the bells in balance. Automatic figures appear every fifteen minutes, and cross the stage to strike the hour. A youth is seen at the quarter, a man at the half-hour, while the figure of time with his scythe strikes the full hour.

The clock also tells the times and seasons of ecclesiastical events, so far as they are associated with astronomical phenomena, the phases of the moon, and the equation of time. There is also a celestial circle, or orrery, that shows the motions of the heavenly bodies.

Agriculture in Ancient China.

In 1100 B. C. the Prime Minister of the Emperor Won-Weng, Tcheou-Kung, constructed norias, or hydraulic machines of simple design and working, in which water was raised to a height to which it had never been carried before, and made reservoirs and canals for irrigation. Water was conducted by means of machinery from the wells to the dry hilltops, and water provision was assured for times of drought. Agriculture, in consequence, flourished.

Other measures of Tcheou-Kung comprised the promulgation of laws respecting the boundaries of properties and the prevention of trespasses. The fields were divided into squares called wells, from their resemblance to the Chinese character signifying a well, surrounded and furrowed by ditches so arranged that eight farmers, each tilling his own tract, united in cultivating the ninth, interior tract, which belonged to the state, and the produce of which paid their rent.

The system succeeded to a marvel. Each tenant was proprietor of about fifteen acres, the whole product of which belonged to him, while the state was really proprietor of the whole, and had, as a landlord, the income of the ninth tract. Besides this, each farmer had some 3,350 square meters of ground for his farmyard and his mulberry trees.

Thus he always enjoyed a surplus of provisions, of pork and poultry for food, and silk for clothing. No one at this time was richer or poorer than another, but a complete social equality existed, and every one, they say, was satisfied. —*Gen. Tcheng Ki Tong, in Popular Science.*

Sad, Solemn Men.

The gentlemen who provide humanity with its last lodging require no cards to designate their calling or to indicate what they are ready to undertake for their defunct fellow-beings. It is written on their faces, in their deportment, on their habiliments—all over them. They are their own cards, as a writer expresses it. If one were to meet an undertaker under the shadow of the pyramids or at Spitzbergen there could be no difficulty in recognizing him as a member of the funeral profession.

Undertakers, as a rule, are moral, estimable men, but they certainly do differ in aspect and manners from the mass of mankind. There is an indescribable air about them, which, for lack of a better word, we must call posthumous. Constant intercourse with the bereaved makes their voices mournful; for your undertaker ever assimilates his tones to those of his afflicted customers, and he thereby acquires a habit of talking as if he had lost all his friends. In like manner the "honor of his visage" becomes woe-begone past all remedy. His very smiles are only deadly-lively.

Then there is a severe plainness about the cut of his black suit which, to say nothing of its melancholy hue, is a rebuke to worldly vanity and a solemn hint that fashion and frivolity are of small account when his duties are to be performed. Nevertheless, the craft is a highly respectable one, and we have not a word to say against it.

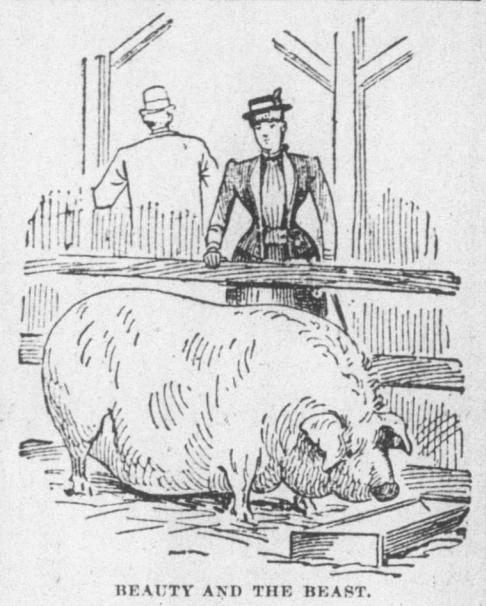
BIG HOGS AND CATTLE.

THE AMERICAN FAT STOCK SHOW AT CHICAGO.

Splendid Specimens of Beef and Pork—One of the Finest Displays of the Stockman's Barns and Fields Ever Beheld—Bovine Monsters—A Thousand-Pound Porker.

THE finest display of the stockman's fields and barns ever witnessed in the West was furnished by the American Fat Stock Association, at its recent exhibit in the Exposition Building at Chicago. There were fat steers from Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, and other States. There were some extraordinary heavyweights among them.

Col. C. M. Culbertson, of Newman, Ill., exhibited a two-year-old steer that



tipped the beam at 2,145 pounds and one at 1,915 pounds. Adam Earle's steer (Lafayette, Ind.) weighed 1,910, and one of Fowler & Bassett's 1,870. Gundzel & Simpson owned a steer weighing 1,945 and George W. Henry one that pulled down 1,960; M. E. Jones & Bro.'s animal (Williamsville, Ill.) weighed 2,095. W. H. Rennick of Austerlitz, Ky., had three that weighed respectively 2,090, 2,020 and 1,980; M. L. Sweet of Grand Rapids, Mich., had one weighing 1,945, and B. Waddell of Marion, Ohio, a beauty drawing down the scales at 2,085. All were fine beasts, but they were Lilliputians compared with the Shorthorn Jumbo, belonging to A. Sandusky, of Indianapolis, Ind. He is a monster, and a handsome one, too. When he stepped on the scales they trembled, and it looked as if more prows would have to be put under the platform. Jumbo is about 5 feet 10 inches in height, and weighs 2,850 pounds. He was light on this occasion, for he usually tips the

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