

Notes and Gleanings.

There are 4,500,000 miners and quarrymen in the world.

Leather waste is now being used in a compressed form for cogwheels in place of cast iron.

The loss by friction on the world's railways is enormous in the aggregate. Dr. Haarmann, a German, estimates that it reaches 247,000 tons of steel in a year.

Austrian soldiers on a very hot day lately were marched and drilled with such pitiless severity that 9 of the regiment died and 22 were carried off the field helpless.

There are in New York city today 1,320 millionaires, as against 294 twenty years ago and twenty-five in 1853. There were no millionaires in the city 100 years ago. The first person to reach that distinction was John Jacob Astor, who became a millionaire about the year 1820.

A man thinking to compliment the conversational powers of his wife's lady friend, said: "She can express less in more words than any one I ever met before." And by the way, that is the trouble with some men's writing and preaching—they express so little in such vast volumes of words.

The Ferrocarril Central del Peru is the highest railway in the world. In eight hours it takes passengers from the tropics to the eternal snows at an altitude nearly equal to the top of Mont Blanc, the highest summit in Europe. It cost forty-five million dollars to build this road. In one place it was found necessary to drain a river by means of a tunnel and use its dry bed for the tracks.

The Suez Canal, cut at such tremendous cost of money and life, is proving a lucrative investment to its present owners. The net tonnage passing through the canal last year increased 424,573 tons over 1901. The transit receipts were over twenty million dollars—the highest received since the opening of the canal; 3,708 vessels passed through the canal last year, of which 2,165 flew the British flag.

Alcoholism is reported to be making alarming inroads among the school children of Normandy. The teachers say that the children frequently come fuddled to school, usually as the result of the celebration of a family festival over night. Such demoralization of the children through wanton exposure to the temptations of drink is simply criminal, and is, in the long run, inevitably destructive of the society or state which permits its occurrence.

The bee-sting as a cure for rheumatism has received serious medical endorsement. Dr. Perc, of Marburg, Germany, has announced that he has proven the efficacy of the treatment in 500 cases, and has cured the most obstinate and painful rheumatism. When the sufferer from rheumatism is stung, the part does not swell until the bee poison has been frequently introduced, when the pain vanishes. Dr. Perc causes his patients to be stung at first by a few bees, and then gradually increases the number.

The *Schoolmaster* has discovered this alphabetical advertisement in an issue of the *London Times* in 1842: "To widowers and single gentlemen—Wanted by a lady, a situation to superintend the household and preside at table. She is Agreeable, Becoming, Careful, Desirable, English, Facetious, Generous, Honest, Industrious, Judicious, Keen, Lively, Merry, Natty, Obedient, Philosophic Quiet, Regular, Sociable, Taste-ful, Useful, Vivacious, Womanish, Xautippish, Youthful, Zealous, etc."

PARLIAMENT.

Monday—The G. T. P. Railway bill was considered in committee.

Tuesday—Mr. Fielding introduced his iron and steel bounty resolution. In 1897 parliament fixed a bounty of three dollars a ton on steel and pig iron from native ore, and two dollars a ton on pig iron from foreign ore. Subsequently the bounty was changed to a sliding scale which took effect last year. Under that law the payment in 1902 was ninety per cent. of the original bounty. This year the payment would have been seventy-five per cent. But the present proposal was to maintain the bounty this year at ninety per cent. of the original amount. The resolution also makes provision for a bounty of six dollars a ton on wire rods, used in the manufacture of wire, wire nails, etc., and a bounty of three dollars a ton on structural iron and heavy plates. The resolution was adopted.

Wednesday—The G. T. P. bill was further considered. Mr. Fowler moved an amendment providing for a line to St. John. He said the promoters had made no provision to arrange for direct communication with St. John. Why was the line to end at Moncton, an inland town, instead of at the nearest Atlantic seaport? The debate was adjourned.

Thursday—A resolution to fix the salaries of the railway commissioners at \$10,000 for the chairman and \$8,000 for the other commissioners and \$4,000 for secretary was moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and adopted.

Friday—The Finance Minister moved to grant \$5,000 towards a telegraphic news service from Great Britain for the Canadian press. I. C. R. supplies were voted.

THE USE OF THE VOICE.

A worthy Methodist exhorter whom we knew long years ago used to say, as an excuse for his vociferous speech, "Yes, brother Gerry has a big voice, and he likes to use the whole of it in speaking for Christ." Many ministers seem to have the same failing. They shout and yell—pardon the word, 'tis the only one that will serve—till their hearers are fairly deafened with the noise. Such vociferosity adds nothing to the force of utterance. It disturbs rather than impresses. It is better to put the emphasis into the thought than into the voice. Dr. Lyman Beecher is reported to have said, "When I have nothing to say, I holler." But a preacher of the Gospel of salvation ought not to have that excuse for boisterous speech. A poor sermon gains nothing, and a good one loses much, by being shouted at the audience. We earnestly advise young men, just entering upon the ministry, to avoid boisterousness in the pulpit. It is far better to cultivate a clear, distinct enunciation and a moderate tone, reserving loudness of speech for the occasions—which are infrequent—when it is appropriate and impressive. —*The Examiner.*

THE MAGAZINES.

A discriminating article on Andrew Murray's "Key to the Missionary Problem" opens the August number of *The Missionary Review of the World*. There is an interesting description of the "Work of the McAll Mission in France." Mrs. Houghton, the author, has a gifted pen and knows her subject well. Among other important articles in this number are those on "A Revival in India," "Problems in Central Africa," and a "Remarkable Crisis in South Africa." To read the *Review* is a liberal missionary education. Published monthly by Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30

Carpet Time

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The September *Delineator* is an attractive number and presents an up-to-date display of Autumn fashions. A special feature is a Collection of Rare Samplers, an illustrated article showing many bits of needlework that are included in a number of famous art collections. For the children, Lina Beard describes and explains the construction in miniature of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. There is also the Sewing Lesson. The departments contain much information of practical value in the home.

WHEAT IS KING.

Wheat is king. His subjects are everywhere. His army is confined to no clime or country. Wherever wheat can be produced there the wheat army labors. Flags and allegiance, and patriotism place no limitations on the wheat king. His orders override all earthly laws. His decrees are unassailable. The country that suits him best he occupies without human opposition of any sort. The world must have wheat. It can consume 2,900,000,000 bushels of wheat a year, and the demand increases. So the reign of old king wheat, which dates back further than human records can trace, and will continue so long as human life lasts, is the longest reign and the most important reign of all time.

CANADA A NEW CONQUEST.

Western Canada is the latest discovery and conquest of the wheat king. Within the memory of many now living it was generally supposed that wheat could not be successfully raised in those northern latitudes. People spoke of frosts and shook their heads wisely. It was a rash and venturesome enterprise to attempt wheat raising on the Western prairie. Even after the success of the experiment had been demonstrated cautious folks whispered about impending disasters. They did not dream that a day was near at hand when all would concede that Canada had the best wheat fields in the world. That in the virgin prairies that

had for, perhaps, millions of years awaited the wheat sower there were possibilities and potentialities far exceeding the wildest dreams of man. That that Western country would soon give the world the very best wheat known, and that that glorious crop would prove a loadstone for people in the four quarters of the world. Yet that is the sober truth. And not the least remarkable circumstance of this national romance is the fact that the Canadian wheat paradise has proven an irresistible attraction to thousands of workers in the greatest wheat-growing country in the world, the United States. This is what the founders of Canada predicted, but few others believed. —*Mail and Empire.*

PRISON-GATE WORK. — Major Archibald, in charge of the Salvation Army's prison-work, addressed a meeting in St. John a few days ago. He told how the prisoners were visited by the salvationists in their cells, and urged to lead a better life. When a prisoner had finished his sentence, work was found for him. Work was in this way secured for 1,501 prisoners last year. Three only returned to their old way, while 80 were converted. The Army expects to place more than 2,000 of these prisoners at work in Ontario this year. These prisoners are of two classes, those for whom only temporary employment could be obtained, and those who could be placed in permanent situations. It was a problem what to do with those who refused to work. He has already established a branch at the penitentiary at Kingston, and also at Dorchester, in this province. He spoke of the parole system, and stated that the army was trying to have a probationary system introduced to apply in first offences, and which it is hoped would obviate the necessity of sending a man to prison.

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