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There was never a time in the history of our country when the demand for inventions and improvements in the arts and sciences generally was so great as now. The convenience of mankind in the factory and workshop, the household and on the farm, as well as in official life, require continual additions to the apparatus and appliances of each in order to save labor, time and expense. The political change in the administration government does not affect the progress of the American inventor, who being on the alert, and ready to perceive the existing deficiencies, does not permit the affairs of government to deter him from quickly conceiving the remedy to overcome existing discrepancies. Too great care cannot be exercised in choosing a competent and skillful attorney to prepare and prosecute an application for patent. Valuable interests have been lost and destroyed in innumerable instances by the employment of incompetent counsel, and especially in this advice applicable to those who adopt the "No patent, no pay" system. Inventors who entrust their business to this class of attorneys do so at imminent risk, as the breadth and strength of the patent is never considered in view of a quick endeavor to get an allowance and obtain the fee. THE PRESS CLAIMS COMPANY, John Wedderburn, General Manager, 615 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., representing a large number of important daily and weekly papers, and general periodicals of the country, was instituted to protect its patrons from the unsafe methods heretofore employed in this line of business. The said Company is prepared to take charge of all patent business entrusted to it for reasonable fees, and prepare and prosecute applications generally, including mechanical inventions, design patents, trade-marks, labels, copyrights, interferences, infringements, validity reports, and gives special attention to rejected cases. It is also prepared to enter into competition with any firm in securing foreign patents.

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ENGLISH TABLES.

A Frenchman on the Tastes of His Neighbor Across the Channel.

The English are not appreciative of cooking, and the table of the greatest food is covered only with large pieces of meat. Biscuits and puddings are as good as unknown. * * * Pastry is heavy and ill baked; compotes and jams are scarcely eatable; forks and knives are not in common use; the washing of the hands is performed by a dipping of them in a basin full of water that is brought round to all the guests. Toward the end of the meal it is customary to smoke tobacco, and while so doing people continue their talk very long.

Men of quality do not practice smoking so assiduously as men of the people, for a workman scarcely allows a day to pass without going to the tavern, there to smoke with some friend of his. For which reason taverns abound, and work progresses but slowly in the shops; a tailor or a shoemaker will leave his board, whatever be the pressure of work, and stroll to the public house of evenings. And as he comes home late and somewhat dizzy, he opens his shutters and begins work again scarcely before seven the following morning. Manufactured goods are the dealer in it, and a strange jealousy grows out of this toward French workmen, who are usually more diligent.

There is a dog in Philadelphia that has a mania for tearing of door-knobs and plates and working the woodwork of the doors generally.

SPOOL MAKING IN MAINE.

A Queer Industry Which Has Grown Up in the Backwoods.

Oxford county, Me., turns out nearly all of the spools on which the thread of this country is wound, says the Philadelphia Press. The spools are made from white birch timber and they are produced by the millmen in Oxford county. There are many other points in western Maine, almost everywhere, in the industry is important. There are many sawmills in that part of the state which are kept busy the year round sawing white birch logs into strips four feet long and from one to two inches wide and of the same thickness. These strips are sent to the spool factories, where they are quickly worked into spools by most ingenious labor-saving machinery. The strips of white birch are fed into one machine and they are not touched—in fact, are hardly seen again—until the spools, all finished for market except polishing, drop out by the bushel from another machine several rods away from where the strips started in. The spools get their gloss by being rapidly revolved in barrels by machinery. The polish resulting from the contact of the spools in the barrel. In the backwoods villages of Oxford county one sees scarcely any other industry but spoolmaking, and everyone is in some way interested in the business. The factories have been eating into the Maine birch forests for years, but there seems to be enough left yet to feed them well for years to come. Hundreds and thousands of feet of logs are cut and sawed into spool timber annually.

Shop factories are also an important branch of business peculiar to Maine, although it has of late been followed to some extent in other eastern states and is spreading to the hardwood forests of Pennsylvania. Maple is used largely in the manufacture of shoe pegs, although white birch is used at some factories. Shoe pegs are sold by the bushel, and are worth at the best from three shillings to one dollar a bushel, according to quality. More than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars were received by Maine shoe factories last year for goods. A curious and profitable business has grown up in the Maine woods about the sawmills in the utilizing of the immense quantities of sawdust by compression. Thousands of tons of sawdust are pressed into cement blocks and bales of the same form is finding a ready market for kindling and fuel in the eastern cities.

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ELECTRIC TELEPHONE

Shot with a Cork.

A lady, stopping in a New York hotel during a recent "hot spell," was much troubled by fever of her legs. She had just dropped asleep one night, when she was aroused by a sharp report, like that of a pistol, and felt a tingling sensation in her shoulder. Putting up her hand, she was horrified to find her night-gown saturated with some fluid, which she was sure was blood. "Henry, which side was struck by blood," Henry, who she called by her sleeping husband, "I am shot; I am bleeding to death!" "Nonsense, Em," her callous husband replied, as he got up and lit the gas, "you have been dreaming."

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THE "WICKED BIBLE."

Among the curiosities of literature possessed by one of the big libraries of New York is an edition of the Scripture, published in several small volumes, known as the "Wicked Bible." There are two sets of books to which this title applies. One was published in England in 1685, and the other in Germany about a century later. Their peculiarity consists of the omission of the word "not" in the seventh commandment.

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