GENERAL NEWS.

Of the winter wheat sown in Illinois 51 per cent was killed.

The Catholic Knights of America have voted to admit women.

Ed Coleman, a Kansas sheriff, was killed by a robber whom he was pursuing.

The mayor of Havana has decreed that inhabitants must not show themselves in undershirts.

A seat on the stock exchange in New York has just sold for $40,000, the highest price ever paid for one.

Wages have been increased ten per cent among the workingmen in the Wheeling Steel and Iron Co.'s mills in Ohio.

Admiral Dewey has informed the United States authorities that he will arrive at Hong Kong on the Olympia on May 25.

The available cash balance in the United States treasury at Washington is $261,003,825 and the gold reserve $231,954,774.

A large gathering of people in Minneapolis on Sunday endorsed the administration for its conduct of affairs in the Philippines.

Director of the Census Merriam has ordered the census districts of Oregon to be arranged and divided upon the lines of the congressional districts.

The convention of the Western Federation of Miners at Salt Lake city passed a strong resolution against the annexation of the Philippine islands.

Twenty-two members of Olympia's crew who had been discharged have reenlisted, and are on the way from the South to San Francisco, to embark for Manila.

Vice-President Hobart is getting stronger daily. Sunday for the first time in a long while he came downstairs and enjoyed luncheon with his family and friends.

Governor Smith, of Montana, has sent word to General Merriam that his officers cannot take men out of the state without evidence that they have committed a crime.

President McKinley expects to be in Minnesota when the soldiers return from the Philippines, and may time his visit to other Western states with the same object in view.

The Wild West show persisted in parading in Princeton, N. J., contrary to immemorial custom, and a riot precipitated by students resulted, in which many were injured.

The republican members of the board of regents have withdrawn the invitation to W. J. Bryan to deliver the commencement day address at the state agricultural college of Kansas.

President Michael C. Murphy of the board of health, of New York city, has begun an active campaign against all persons whom he considers to come under the head of "faith curers."

The secretary of the state of Delaware has issued a certificate of incorporation to the Federal Sewer Pipe Company, of Akron, Ohio. The capital of the company is placed at $25,000,000.

William M. Boggs, defaulting teller of the Dover, Delaware, National bank, has been sentenced in United States district court to five years in the Trenton, N. J., penitentiary, and a fine of $6500.

A terrible massacre has occurred in Formosa, 30 villagers being killed by 60 savages. The trouble grew out of a dispute over the paternity of an illegitimate child and the death of its mother.

J. C. Butter, was lodged in jail at Bentonville, Ark., charged with the murder of his 15-year-old daughter, Saturday. The girl was horribly butchered, her head being split open with an axe and her throat cut.

Messrs. Carrick and Holmes, American civilians captured at Calumpit, have been released by General Luna, who saw them through the lines with several Englishmen who received notice to leave the rebel territory.

Persistent rumors to the effect that ex-President Cleveland, who is fishing at Middle Bass island, in Lake Erie, had dropped dead Sunday reached Cleveland, Ohio, from the East and West. The report proved to be untrue.

Rev. C. W. DeLyon Nichols, of New York, assistant rector of St. Luke's church, has severed his connection with the Protestant Episcopal church, and been received into the Roman Catholic faith.

The presidency of the state agricultural college of Colorado has been tendered to E. Benjamin Andrews, superintendent of Chicago's public schools, and Dr. Andrews, has not decided to accept or not.

Representatives of 20 leading manufacturers of feed-cutters, corn-shellers, feed-mills and cider-mills met in Chicago, and decided upon an advance of from 15 to 25 per cent in prices, because of the increased cost of raw materials.

The British admiralty has offered £75,000 for an electric gun invented by the son of a Portland grocer. The gun throws an explosive shot a distance of five and a half miles with a velocity of a mile in two seconds. It is noiseless and smokeless.

Peter Hegelman won the 72-hour go-as-you-please race, that has been in progress at the Grand Central Palace since Monday last, with a score of 407 miles. The record for the time is 416 miles, 602 yards, made by Gus Guerrero, in Boston, in 1891.

The Earl of Strafford, who last December married Mrs. Colgate in New York, was run down by an express train near London and instantly killed. He was subject to epileptic fits and was attacked just as the train came into the depot, falling in front of the locomotive.

Henry Reitz, a janitor at the Jefferson school, in Chicago, refused to buy drinks for two men whom he met in a saloon, and a short time later he was struck a fatal blow by one of his companions. He was found unconscious by the policemen and died in a few minutes, without making a statement.

In the Pro-cathedral in New York city on Sunday, Rev. Dr. Charles A. Briggs, who was suspended for heresy by the Presbyterian assembly, was ordained a priest of the Episcopal church. He was ordained together with the Rev. Chas. A. Snedecker, and the ordination ceremonies were conducted by Bishop Potter.

The national museum of Washington city has received from Admiral Dewey two cannon captured from the Spaniards when Cavite fell. In one of them two shells and a grape shot were found, and the museum officials are wondering whether it had been loaded by the Spaniards during the fight and incautiously sent home by the gallant admiral.

Rev. Edward Morgan, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal church, of Bakersfield, Calif., has fallen heir to a fortune of $75,000. Mr. Morgan is a nephew of Miss Midy Morgan, one of the pioneer newspaper women of New York, and a famous livestock reporter. It is from the latter's sister, who died a few weeks ago, that Rev. Morgan inherits his fortune.

The body of Colonel Harry C. Egbert, who was killed in battle near Manila, was brought home on one of the transports, and has been buried with military honors in Arlington cemetery, Washington, D. C. Major Egbert Field, brother-in-law of Mrs. Egbert, escorted the body from San Francisco to Washington.

Secretary Long has made public so much of a recent letter from Admiral Kautz on the Samoan affair, as touched the killing of a number of American sailors by the Mataafa adherents near Apia. The report is an elaboration of the affair cabled at the time. It is shown that the failure of the Colt gun to work properly was in a large measure the cause of the American and British defeat.

The war department has received a report, dated March 31, from Chief Surgeon Lippincott at Manila giving in detail the condition of the troops of the Eighth corps. The report is generally favorable. It shows the total number of killed up to date, March 31, to be 182 and the wounded 847. The wounds are generally of a slight character, and many have returned or will return to duty soon. The surgeon says that everything for the comfort of the sick and wounded has been done, the hospital conditions being excellent.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NEWS.

Elijah J. Colbath, a pioneer of 1858, died at his home at Salem Sunday of paralysis.

The annual encampment of the O. N. G. will be held on the fair grounds near Salem.

E-Governor Pennoyer will start up his saw mill in Portland, which has been idle for several years.

A curiosity, in the form of a perfect four-legged chicken, was hatched at the home of F. W. Strong, in Portland Thursday last.

George Schiffner, aged 34, died at Walla Walla Wednesday of tuberculosis of the bowels. He leaves a wife and six children.

W. A. Storey was elected mayor of Portland, Tuesday night, by the city council to fill the unexpired term of the late W. S. Mason.

O. M. Hidden, proprietor of the Columbia hotel, at Vancouver, Wash., died at St. James hotel, San Jose, Cal., Sunday, aged 58.

The Dalles has undertaken to raise a subsidy of between $15,000 and $20,000 to encourage the establishment of manufacturing plants.

C. W. Nordstrom, who murdered William Mason in Seattle over eight years ago, has been sentenced for the fourth time to be hanged.

Attorney General Blackburn is of opinion that the Southern Oregon Agricultural Society cannot draw its money from the state treasury.

The United States grand jury at Moscow, Idaho, has indicted the ringleaders of the mob that destroyed the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mill.

The law permitting the release of prisoners from the Walla Walla penitentiary on parole by the governor of Washington will go into effect about June 14.

William Lockridge, an escaped Missouri robber and murderer, who was reported to have been drowned recently at Astoria, has been discovered and arrested in Montana.

Claude Branton, who was hanged at Eugene, Friday, used neither tobacco, liquor nor profane language. He was supposed to be a model young man until he killed a man for gain.

H. F. Van Houssen, formerly superintendent of the Idaho division of the Oregon Short Line, has been appointed assistant superintendent of the Wyoming division of the Union Pacific railroad.

In the election to bond the town of Lakeview for $25,000 for a water system, fire, domestic, electric light and other purposes, the bonds were defeated by 5 votes. The election was spirited.

There are now nearly twelve hundred patients at the state asylum for the insane near Salem. The daily total has been running between 1175 and 1190 for some weeks. The number is not likely to be decreased.

CLIMBS STEEP HILLS.

Woodburn, Oregon, Man Invents a Bicycle With a Changeable Gear.

Peter G. Scharbach, of Woodburn, has invented a chainless bicycle with a changeable gear, by means of which a person can ride up the steepest kind of a hill. The wheel was tried recently on Portland Heights incline, and the rider made the ascent apparently without effort, and came down again without trouble.

Power is applied to the shaft by the ordinary bevel gear of a chainless bicycle. From the shaft to the wheel, however, the gear is not of the bevel description, but is applied at right angles, and the cog on the shaft is movable. This cog acts on three different circles of teeth on a plate which is attached to the wheel, and by slipping the cog back and forth three different gears are obtained, 38, 58 and 78. The cog is operated from a ratchet at the handlebars, and it is not necessary to dismount to change the gear.

Mr. Scharbach has filed a caveat and is fully protected, and Mr. Ohlhoff, the civil engineer, is now making drawings to be submitted to the patent office. Ex-State Senator Hobson and Messrs. Sims and Shaw, of Salem, are interested with Mr. Scharbach.

A very flattering offer for the invention has already been made by one of the largest manufacturers.

ALGER'S predicament.

He May Be Forced to Resign from the Cabinet.

A Washington dispatch says: "Complications in Michigan politics may cause Secretary Alger to resign from the cabinet. Secretary Alger wants to be sent to the senate, and thus obtain a vindication from his own state. Senator McMillan wishes to be reelected to the senate. Governor Pingree wants the support of the Michigan delegation to the next republican convention for the presidential nomination.

Senator McMillan has refused to form an alliance with the Pingree faction, and will make his fight for the senatorship as a supporter of the administration, and demand that Michigan's vote in the convention shall be cast for the renomination of President McKinley. Secretary Alger cannot hope to win if he antagonizes both Senator McMillan and Governor Pingree. To secure the senatorship he must form an alliance with Governor Pingree against Senator McMillan. An alliance with Governor Pingree would mean that he must oppose the administration and endeavor to choose a delegation to the republican convention antagonistic to President McKinley. To do this and remain in the cabinet would be impossible.

THE OREGON VOLUNTEERS.

They Will Soon Be on the Way Home.

Senator McBride has had further conferences with the war department regarding the return of the Oregon regiment to Portland. Colonel Summers has again cabled saying that the regiment prefers to go by way of San Francisco, and be mustered out at Portland. Secretary Alger says that the camp tentage and other equipment at San Francisco made it more practicable to muster out the troops there. It is possible, if the ship is sent up the Columbia, it may be used for quarters until the muster out. Secretary Alger told Senator McBride that Oregon should have her share of the captured cannon. It is expected two will be obtained from the navy department and two from the war department for the soldiers' monument.

Mortgage Tax.

In the state circuit court at Portland a few days ago Judge Cleland decided that a mortgage tax is not a lien on the property under the mortgage. Suit was brought by J. B. Montgomery to restrain the sheriff from selling certain property to satisfy a tax on mortgage on that property. The mortgage tax law was repealed in 1893 and a large amount of taxes on mortgages for the year 1892 still remain unpaid. The decision today simply holds that real property can not be sold by the county to satisfy a mortgage tax. The decision involves many thousands of dollars.

THE BRAIN CELLS.

A human brain cell is a little octopus, with power to move the tiny tentacles with which it is provided—to stretch them out, or to withdraw them at will. Upon this fact rests the newest revelation in the science of mind.

Why does a man act queerly when he is intoxicated?

Why is a man absent-minded on occasions?

Why, in rare instances, does a man forget all of his past life, being forced to begin again as a new individual?

Why does a man sometimes become violently and dangerously insane—a raving maniac?

A solution of these problems, so long deemed hopelessly puzzling, has at last been worked out, and a very satisfactory exposition of the subject is given by Dr. Ira Van Gieson, in a volume just published by the Pathological institute of the New York state hospitals.

A human brain cell, as described by Dr. Van Gieson, is a simple bit of nerve-substance, from one end of which spring a number of tentacles, while from another part arises an arm different from these and of great length. The long arm is for transmitting impressions from one portion of the brain system to another. For example, a given "octopus" extends its long arm so as to touch the tentacles or short arms of a second octopus; the latter, in its turn, effects contact with a third, and so on. Thus, a message is conveyed and the mind gets its news.

The brain is a congeries of these cells, groups of which are organized into systems by what are called "association fibers." In their turn, the systems are arranged in communities, the communities in clusters, and the clusters in constellations. So long as the mind apparatus is in a healthy condition each little "octopus" attends to its business faithfully, and there is no trouble; but, unfortunately, civilized man abuses his brain in various ways, though especially with overwork and alcohol, and mental disturbances frequently result. These disturbances are the consequences of rebellion on the part of the octopuses, which have a way of quitting business when they are ill-treated beyond a certain point.

You see, the octopus has power to withdraw, as well as to extend, its tentacles, or shorter arms, and in this way it is able to throw itself "out of circuit." As a matter of fact, such action is not taken by a single brain cell, but by whole groups together. The cells are so linked by education and habit that they can operate only as members of assemblages, and the withdrawal of one individual from business signifies a "strike" by a large number. The object of the strike is simply to avoid overwork, and the action taken is a signal of exhaustion; it means that the cells can not afford to give up any more energy.

Here you have an illustration of what sometimes happens to the successful merchant who works eighteen hours out of every twenty-four at piling up the dollars. One day something goes wrong: his thought machine does not seem to work properly, and ideas do not flow easily. No attention being paid to the matter, phenomena of this kind become more frequent, and at length there comes a breakdown. A group, or perhaps a system, of brain cells has given up work, and thrown itself out of circuit, refusing to transmit messages. The merchant goes to a sanitarium for awhile, and, if careful of himself, he may recover.

Or the case may be that of a literary man, who gets into the habit of helping himself at his work with doses of whisky. He finds that he can accomplish more with the aid of the stimulant, and after awhile he can not write at all without it. The alcohol stimulates the brain cells, and causes them to yield an extra amount of energy. This, indeed, they do readily for awhile, but it is accomplished at the expense of a strain upon their reserve force, and at length they are obliged to give up. Also, the alcohol acts as a poison upon the brain-cells, causing them to work irregularly, so that the literary man perhaps becomes afflicted with morbid ideas, hallucinations and delusions.

The discovery of this tendency to withdraw from business on the part of the brain cell under certain conditions has thrown a flood of light upon a host of mental phenomena. A blow on the head may deprive a man of his education, taking away from him all memory of his past career, so that he has to begin to live over again a new world. The cause is simply that the associations between certain groups of cells have been broken up. Manifestations of violent mania are due, in some cases at all events, to the withdrawal of the higher groups of cells which dominate and control the lower parts of the nervous system. Thus the subconscious mind, which ordinarily is held in abeyance, lacks its normal control and advances to the foreground, responding to any stimulus with a storm of excitement.

Brain cells of the highest order are found in the upper brain, where the intellect proper is supposed to be located. Here, as Dr. Van Gieson says, the associations of the tiny octopuses are comparatively loose, and their relations change constantly. In fact, they are in a state of continual flux, and hence the play of the mind, the infinite variety of thought and reasoning. This condition of affairs, indeed, is essential to the elevated type of intelligence; a stupid person does not have this constant mind-play, due to the making and breaking of relations between brain cells. Of course, this is not the only reason for the mental superiority of the clever man. The brain octopuses, like the octopuses of the ocean, differ in their qualities, and thus we find varying degrees of talent in different individuals.

Temporary disjunctions of the higher cells are accountable for the phenomena of absent-mindedness. A man is so absorbed in the consideration of one subject that he is unconscious of what is going on around him, the tenacles of the octopuses being all turned one way, so to speak. Being so loosely associated, the higher brain cells are first to act in a disorderly fashion when a person takes too much to drink, so that he behaves queerly and talks absurdly, unlike his usual self. The effect of the alcohol going further, the cells in those patches of the brain which control the muscular movements are affected and the man staggers. Finally, when the dose is very large, the octopuses give up work en masse for the time being and the victim sleeps like one dead. If enough of the poison is taken the brain cells are paralyzed for good and the unfortunate dies.

There is some relation, as yet undiscovered, between extraordinary activity of mind and insanity; hence the statement, unquestionably true, that "great wit to madness nearly is allied." It can not be denied that geniuses are apt to exhibit symptoms of mental alienation, and their children are usually inferior in intelligence to those of average men. Examples are easily furnished to illustrate the proposition:

Martin Luther had hallucinations.

Edgar A Poe showed symptoms of insanity.

Peter the Great was an epileptic.

Julius Caesar was an epileptic.

Raphael was afflicted with suicidal mania.

Walter Scott had visions.

Pascal in early youth was thrown into a passion by the sight of water.

Richelieu, on occasions, imagined himself a horse.

Descartes was followed by a specter.

Goethe, on at least one occasion, encountered a phantasm of himself.

Cromwell was a hypochondriac and had visions.

Jean D'Arc had visions.

J. J. Rousseau was a melancholy madman.

Mahommed was an epileptic and received messages from God.

Swendenborg fancied that he went to heaven on a white horse.

Mozart died of cerebral hydrophy.

Chopin abandoned his wife because she offered to another man the seat he wanted.

Mme. de Stael was fearful of the cold of the tomb, and commanded that her dead body be wrapped in furs.

Dean Swift inherited insanity, and was himself not a little mad.

Shelley, called by his friends "Mad Shelley," had hallucinations.

Charles Lamb went crazy.

The great Johnson was a hypochondriac, and had hallucinations of hearing.

Coleridge was a morbid maniac.

Byron was visited by ghosts.

Milton was of a morbid temperament nearly approaching insanity. Modern ideas as to hell are formed on the descriptions evolved by his diseased imagination.

Certain kinds of dementia have come to be associated with certain classes of people. Paresis, almost unknown in women, is a typical insanity of speculators. Usually it seems to be due to overstrain of the nervous system, attributable to the excitement of gambling, combined with habitual stimulation by alcohol, to which operators in this line commonly resort for its "bracing" effect. Paresis is one of the most rapid of all brain diseases in its progress, and is always fatal, the extreme limit of survival being four years. I well remember a case in New York city where experts in my own profession declared me wrong in my diagnosis of the complaint of a patient whom I put down as a victim of paresis. Being unable to convince them that I was right, I told them that if the man was not dead within four years I would burn my medical diploma and confess that I knew nothing about by business. The patient died just four years and one day later, so that I lost the hazard, but my professional brethren let me off with a dinner, which I was very willing to pay for, inasmuch as I was proved to have been correct.

Society women are especially liable to melancholia, and old maids are very much more subject to mental aberrations than married women. The stealing of women's shoes is a form of craziness so highly specialized that the Germans give to it a name of its own — "frauenschustehlmonomanie." Fear of being shut in anywhere is another species of insanity, and victims of another kind have such a dread of uncleanliness that they spend all their time in the bath, if permitted. This last disease I was the first to identify, and to it I gave the name of "mysophobia."

The arctic sparrow, among all animals, has the biggest brain in proportion to its size. Relatively to bulk, the canary bird possesses a brain bigger than a man's and the same is true of the squirrel monkey of South America, which is not an exceptionally intelligent simian. Bulk, however, counts for little; the quality is the thing of importance, and therefore it is a mistake to attribute inferiority to woman's brain as compared to man's merely on the ground that it weighs eight ounces less. She is a smaller creature, and hence the lesser weight of her cerebral equipment. It should be remembered, furthermore, that the brain is not the sole organ of mind; much of our thinking is done with the spinal cord and with the ganglia, which are distributed all through the body.

DR. WILLIAM A. HAMMOND.

FRATERNAL INSURANCE.

The United States Court Decision of Interest to the Insured.

United States Judges Gilbert, Reese and Morrow, sitting as a circuit court of appeals, in San Francisco handed down an opinion which will be of interest to fraternal and beneficiary societies of which insurance is a feature. The case was that of Lillian H. Beck vs the supreme lodge, Knights of Pythias of the world. The plaintiff is the widow of Frank A. Beck, a member of the Endowment Rank, who blew out his brains with a shotgun. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane and in accordance with the bylaws of the order regarding suicide, the widow was tendered $138, instead of $3000, the sum for which Beck's life was insured.

The widow brought suit, got judgment for $3000 and the supreme lodge appealed.

The court of appeals in affirming the judgment of the lower court holds that the defendant should have proved the deceased came to his death with suicidal intent and it did not devolve upon the widow to prove by a preponderance of evidence that his death resulted from the accidental discharge of his gun. The widow will receive the $3000.

THE FACE.

One of our friends has been having her photograph taken by that clever man who produces things that look like carbon prints after the old masters. She spent the better part of the morning with him, for he will not be hurried. He insists upon studying and considering every sitter. Consequently he cannot take as many photographs as most photographers, and charges accordingly, but she says it is worth it. He posed her a variety of different ways, studied her face from every angle, changed the lights, made her look up and look down, cocked her head first on one side, then on the other: took front view, rear view, side view, profile, three quarters, one quarter. He took probably twenty plates, and from them there will be several of surpassing beauty. He told her that no face was alike on both sides, and he showed her the right and left profiles of many well-known people to prove his point. His theory was that the right side of the face represented the family and the left side the individual. That is to say, the right side is what you are born with; it reveals the hereditary traits you have inherited from past generations. But the left side expresses your own character. It is the face you have made for yourself or that life has molded for you, with all its pleasures and sorrows, its ideals held to or abandoned, its struggles and risings or falls. Curious idea, isn't it? We have all been studying our profiles with a handglass ever since.

THE NEWSPAPER.

With an abundance of attractive type, with expert compositors to "build" an "ad" and to put on the typographical embellishments, and, finally, with a big circulation which takes the "ad" into thousands of homes, the newspaper is the most effective means that the merchant can find to attract the public to his store. But an observant friend criticises the dictum that a typographically attractive advertisement is the most efficacious, and says that it was in the leaden casket that Bassanio found the portrait of fair Portia. That is true, and certainly all is not gold that glitters; but that was an occasion when a successful selection by those who sought the prize depended upon the hazard of a guess. The smart merchant does not want his patrons to guess. He wants them to know, and the more attractive the way in which he tells them of his goods the better the results.

Colonel Mosby in Portland.

Colonel J. S. Mosby, who during the civil war was one of the most brilliant of confederate raiders, but who is now a prominent attorney in San Francisco, and a gold-standard republican, is in Portland on legal business for the Southern Pacific, and will remain until Tuesday, when he goes to Spokane to visit his son, Reverly Mosby, a well known lawyer of that city.

PERSONAL AND PERTINENT.

Again it is given out from Washington that President McKinley has hidden away in his bonnet a sort of a business bee. He has a kind of bargain counter ability which would distinguish him in a department store, but it is hardly commendable in the chief of the American government. Some months ago it was suggested that Japan would make a good customer for the Philippines. This was a feeler. Once more it is desired to test the public pulse and it goes abroad that the Mikado is a possible purchaser of the Archipelago. McKinley took the Philippines at the price of $20,000,000, and in his behalf it is said he can get $200,000,000 from the Japs. That, as he shrewdly argues, would leave a large margin of profit. But would it not diminish the great glory of the taking of the Philippines? It is not proposed to enlarge on any anti-expansion argument here, but is it not making a kind of buccaneer and a pirate of your Uncle Samuel to discuss the sale of these islands to any power? The only excuse this government can give for taking the property is that the people thereof would be better off than under the Spanish dominion or left to their own wayward and sinful devices. There is nothing in the Japanese history which affords ground for believing that the Mikado's rule is higher and superior to that of home rule or government by a colonial bureau of the United States. And yet any fate for the Philippines, even turning them over to the original Malayans, would be an improvement upon holding the islands for the use and behoof of the American-Philippine Trading company, composed of Senator Elkins, ex-Secretary Bliss, Secretary Alger and almost any other person you may mention, now connected with the government in an administrative way or in the capacity of mortgage.

The reported intention of Speaker Reed to retire from congress and devote his time to the acquirement of a competency, recalls several stories illustrative of Reed's keen sense of humor. In an elevator at the state department one day, at the beginning of the present administration, Reed found himself cheek by jowl with a throng of seekers for posts in the foreign service—men willing to accept anything, from minister to Siam down to third assistant deputy consul at Sihngummybob, South Africa. "Humph!" Reed said, as he got out of the elevator; "this is the largest collection for foreign missions I've seen taken up in all my life."

When Reed was candidate for speaker of the Fifty-first congress, it was said in deprecation of his candidacy that he was not a war veteran, which most of his competitors were. A correspondent mentioned this to the burly man from Maine, who drawled: "Oh, these fellows dont' know anything about my war record. You can tell 'em I served through the late unpleasantness. I kept a grocery store on a gunboat in the lower Mississippi during the war." It is not generally known of Reed that he really saw service. He was an assistant payamster in the navy; and, although he never carried a weapon, he earned his pay, if not a pension.

Congressman Lacey, of Iowa, is supposed to be Alger's "double." The fact that Lacey, who is tall, thin, angular, and bearded, like the secretary of war, resembles that military genius quite closely enough to enable the capitol guides to point him out to rural visitors as Secretary Alger, was known to Reed. One day, shortly after the report of the war investigating committee, which whitewashed everything in sight, had been made public, Lacey dropped in to see Reed. Reed looked at him smilingly, and then said: "Hello, Lacey! The newspapers say you're Alger's doppelganger. You do look something like the secretary, whether you're proud of it or not. If you're really anxious to increase the resemblance, I'd advise you to go off and get yourself whitewashed."

It was Reed who said of the administration's curious performance in paying $20,000,000 to the Spanish for the Philippines: "Buying niggers on the other side of the world is like the farmer who buys 'green goods'—he never gets what he pays for, and if he squeals, is called a sucker."

The news comes from Berlin that the satirical poem read by Captain Coghlan, of the navy, at a club dinner in New York, really amused the subject of it, the German kaiser, immensely. It was reported that he had been offended by the skit, but the contrary is the truth. None of the Berlin papers published the poem, containing only descriptive references to it, and so his majesty was unable to get a good idea of the tenor of the poem. His curiosity being aroused, he caused the poem to be telegraphed from London to Berlin in full. He is said to have fairly roared with laughter as he read it; an interesting fact, for it has not been known generally that the kaiser's bump of humor was developed to the point at which he could appreciate a joke of which he was the subject.—The Verdict.

LABORATORY TESTS OF THE BICYCLE.

There is probably not a machine in the world that works on such a small margin of safety as the bicycle. It has been estimated that the safety "factor" is only about 1¼ in the lightest machines, and while this is probably too low an estimate, it is certain that, when a powerful 200-pound rider is climbing a steep hill, or worse, coasting down a hill whose surface is rough and lumpy, the margin of safety must be a very narrow one—narrow, that is to say, compared with that allowed in other forms of mechanical construction. Thus the bridge builder provides sufficient steel in the various members to insure that the heaviest possible loads that can come upon them will not strain the metal above from 20 to 30 per cent of its elastic strength, and even in designing structures that are subject to quiet or static loads, the material is not strained beyond 33 per cent of its strength: that is to say, the parts are made not less than three times as strong as is necessary to bear the greatest stress that will be put upon them.

We cannot calculate the maximum stresses of a bicycle with the nicety with which they can be computed in engineering structures and in the heavier classes of machinery. The conditions of use and abuse are so various—the hard use of a powerful but cautious rider being less severe than the abuse of some reckless boy—that the only way in which the proper strength for a wheel can be determined is by trial, and by a careful selection and test of the materials of which it is constructed. If an engineer were told to work out the strain-sheet of a bicycle in the same way as he would that of a railway bridge, taking the possible maximum stresses due to the work of heavy and powerful riders upon rough and hilly roads, and proportioning his parts so that the metal should not be strained above 10,000 to 15,000 pounds to the square inch, the wheel built from such a strain-sheet would be as heavy as the primitive boneshaker of thirty years ago.

A comparison of the bicycle considered as a means of transportation with a railway car brings out the remarkable fact that it takes forty six times as much dead weight of material to carry a man on the railway as it does on a wheel. For a modern coach carrying sixty people will weigh about 70,000 pounds, which is at the rate of 1167 pounds to the passenger; while a modern bicycle will weigh only 35 pounds. If we take the Pullman car as an example, the disparity is yet more striking; for here we have only twenty-four passengers carried on a car weighing 100,000 pounds, or say 2 tons to the passenger. In this case the car weighs 167 times more per passenger than does the bicycle.

From these considerations it is evident that the light weight of the bicycle can only be maintained by the most careful inspection of materials and workmanship, and in the case of all the standard bicycles it is safe to say that this inspection is very carefully made. Every lot of stock is subject to tests in the testing department, which, by the way, is coming to be recognized as an indispensable part of all large American establishments in the engineering and kindred trades, and the finished parts and finished machines are in some cases put to special tests to determine their strength and running qualities.

The testing machine, used for trying the strength of the frame, designed to reproduce as far as possible the actual stresses to which a frame is subjected when put to hard usage on the road. The principal stresses are those due to the weight of the rider applied at the top of the seat-post tube and the alternate transverse bending stress due to the pressure on the pedals. The frame is mounted upon two blocks, one under each hub, the crank-hanger being left unsupported. The stresses due to the weight of the rider are reproduced by means of a short-throw crank driven by a pulley, and a spring connecting rod, one end of which is clamped to the seat-post, while the crank engages a sliding head which is attached by a powerful spiral spring to the other end. The rapid rotation of the crank thus imparts a series of cushioned blows whose effect on the frame is similar to that due to the speed of the machine, inequalities of the road, the pneumatic tires, and that part of the rider's weight which is on the saddle.

The crank-shaft stresses are applied by means of two connecting rods, one on each side of the frame, which are driven by eccentrics set at 180 degrees and carried on a second pulley-driven shaft. The stroke of the eccentrics is of course very short, merely sufficient to bring a heavy bending stress alternately on each side of the crank-hanger. One machine out of every lot is placed in this instrument of torture, and if, after it has been merrily thumped and wrenched for a stated length of time, its tubing is true, brazing sound, and the whole frame in line, it is considered that no fair usage on the road can ever break or distort it.

One must confess that, interesting as the various departments of a bicycle factory undoubtedly are, the most fascinating plant is to be found in the department of tests, for here we see the fruition of the labor of the whole establishment. That all-absorbing question as to the respective ease of running of a chain and a chainless wheel is here determined to absolute demonstration on an ingenious device known as a float dynamometer. The wheel is mounted at the side of a tank of water in which are two separate floating platforms. On the first platform is mounted an electric motor, on the other a friction brake. The motor is connected by a universal joint shaft with the axle of the bicycle, and the friction brake is similarly connected with the shaft of a pulley upon which the rear or driving wheel of the bicycle runs. It is evident that the power given out by the floating motor will be in part absorbed by the internal resistance of the bicycle, the rest being returned at the floating brake.

The tangential reaction of the motor will cause the float on which it is carried to tilt over; similarly, the pull of the brake will tilt the brake float. If, now, the tilting in each case be corrected by moving a sliding weight on a horizontal graduated arm, the readings of the two arms will show respectively the power given to the bicycle by the motor and the power returned to the brake from the bicycle. The difference will represent the loss by friction in the bicycle. If a chainless and a chain wheel be tested in the same apparatus, their respective efficiency can be determined with the greatest accuracy.

It is found that, with the gears new and perfectly clean under light loads, there is practically no difference in efficiency between the chain and chainless wheels, but, as the load is increased, the chainless wheel begins to show a gain which grows rapidly as the load is still further augmented—a result which shows the bevel gear to be superior to the chain gear for hill climbing, and superior to it in all cases where the chain has "stretched" or is fouled with grit or dust.

OPENING THE COLUMBIA.

The Work Is Being Dragged Wearily Along.

The department of justice has informed Senator McBride that, through legal process, the government has now secured the title to all the land necessary for the right of way for the boat railway at The Dalles, with the exception of 24 acres owned by the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, and this will be obtained as soon as arrangements can be made for changing the tracks of that road. The last two tracts to which the title was obtained were 16 acres from I. H. Taffe and 94

Senator McBride says that he is perfectly willing to substitute a canal and locks for the boat railway, but intends to hold the boat railway project until such a substitution can be secured. It is believed that the right of way obtained for the boat railway will be needed for the canal and locks.

Disease of San Jose Scale.

The Oregon experiment station has succeeded in destroying the San Jose scale by inoculating it with a fungus disease. Pure cultures of this fungus will be prepared and so far as possible will be furnished free of charge to those fruit growers who wish to test this method of destroying the scale. Full directions for carrying on the work will be sent out with each sample of the disease. Applications for the materials should be make to the Oregon experiment station, Corvallis, Oregon.

The Michigan senate passed the income tax bill, which applies to both individuals and corporations. The tax is leived on the income of corporations, as non-resident stockholders can not be reached in any other way. The rates fixed in the bill are one-quarter of 1 per cent on incomes of from $1000 to $2500; one-half of 1 per cent on from $2500 to $5000 and 1 per cent on all in excess of $5000.

The Michigan state senate has passed a radical anti-trust bill and the house will do the same.

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THE MAZET INVESTIGATION.

Mayor Van Wyck of New York Before the Commission.

New York, May 16.—Mayor Van Wyck was in the witness chair before the Mazet commission today. He was questioned as to whether he consulted Croker regarding the city government, and flatly denied that he did so.

In answer to the question, was it contrary to his notion of political ethics that there should be a leader of a party whose voice should have great significance and weight with the chief executive, the mayor said tartly: "You had better call Senator Platt and ask him that question; he knows more about leadership than I do."

STRIKE TROUBLES IN ARKANSAS.

Two Men Killed and Another Wounded at Huntington.

St. Louis, Mo., May 16.—A dispatch from Little Rock to the Post Dispatch, says: Forty strikers attacked forty colored miners behind a stockade near Huntington today, firing volley after volley at them. Two men on guard at the stockade returned the fire, killing one of the strikers. John Wright, one of the guards, was killed and another, James Campbell, seriously wounded.

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3. LOSS OF APPETITE AND GNAWING IN THE STOMACH. HUDYAN will restore the appetite and the digestion of food will become perfect.

4. FEELING OF WEIGHT OVER THE LIVER. This is due to the enlargement of the liver. It is filled with the poison of malaria. HUDYAN will drive out the poison and cause the organ to assume its natural size.

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