#### A NOVEL REQUEST.

Mungarian Who Wants to Take Trip Through the West at the Expense of the Government.

Many novel propositions are received by the government officials at Washdugton, but one presented to Secretary Hitchcock by a citizen of Hungary eclipses all others in this line. The Hungarian evidently wishes to make a tour of the United States at the expense of the government, and at the same time gather data for a book giving his impressions of America.

He has requested that transportation be furnished him, his wife, five children and two servants from his home in Hungary to the United States and return, so as to enable him to inspect the unoccupied lands of this country for the purpose of colonizing a number of his countrymen here. This trip would involve a tour of Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North and South Dakota, and, in fact, almost every state n the union, and would be an extremely expensive journey, as the Hungarian expects this government to defray all the expenses of his family, in addition to which he is to receive remuneration

for his trouble. The communication was referred to the commissioner of the land office for nction. The proposition created some amusement in the department, and, of course, the government will not entertain it for a moment. No reply has ret been made to this proposition, but the Hungarian will be informed there are too many native Americans who would gladly take a trip of this character at the expense of the government, without going abroad to bestow favors of this kind.

### A NOVEL RAILROAD.

14

Covers Three Miles in County Down, Ireland, and Is Used to Haul Wagons Up a Grade.

In the County Down, Ireland, according to Consul Hopley, at Southampton, is a novelty in the way of a steel plate roadway, known as the Benbrook & Newry electric railway. It is only three miles long, and has a rise of 180 feet. It has been in operation for 16 years, and has a three-foot gauge. All the trains are mixed passenger and freight combined. The passenger line is built of ordinary steel rails, outside of and adjoining which is a lower line of steel rails. The wagons, without flanges on the wheels, run on the lower outside rails; the inner rails for the cars are high enough above the outer rail to act as a guide to the wagons, keeping them on the tracks. On either end of the line the wagons are detached from the train and taken to their destination over the regular streets and roads by horses. There are no terminal charges, so the cost of handling is light. There is no delay or difficulty in getting the wagons on or off the ends of the line. The cost of the road, including land and all, was

## THE TORPEDO SYSTEM.

Gen. Wilson, Chief of Engineers, Is a Firm Advocate of It as a Coast and Harbor Defense.

Gen. Wilson, chief of engineers, is a firm advocate of the torpedo system as a means of coast and harbor defenses. He expended nearly \$1,500,000 of the national defense fund in submarine mines and torpedoes, and is auxious to disburse \$100,000 next year in the same work. He is in receipt of the reports of: engineer officers who made a study of the torpedo system in the late war, and finds nothing wanting in the method. In general the system has fully realized all expectations, and, with the exception of a few minor details, no changes are contemplated. Sufficient mines and cables are now on hand for present needs at all harbors where torpedo defenses are contemplated. A considerable number of minor articles are, however, lacking, some having never been supplied and some having been destroyed or lost as a result of the operations in the war last summer.

### GHOSTS HAUNT A HANGMAN.

Amos Lunt, of San Francisco, with a Record of Twenty Executions, Is a Mental Wreck.

Amos Lunt, the hangman of San Quentin prison, who has a record of 20 executions in five years, is now a mental wreck from insomnia and hallucina-

He hasn't slept for nearly two weeks, because every time he falls into a doze he sees the spirit of some of the murderers whom he has executed. Especially is he haunted by the spirit of Durrant, who murdered two girls in a church, and Hunchback John Miller, whose head was nearly taken off because of Lunt's miscalculation of the drop of the

Warden Hale will send Lunt to a sanitarium and attempt to 'restore his

Lucking for a Mythical Fortune. Several letters from England have lately reached the orphans' court in Baltimore, in which the writers claim: to be kinsmen of one Stephen Bromley, who, as they believed, lately died; in Baltimore and left un estate of several millions of dollars and no will. Examination of the records showed that his possession at the time of his death were valued at \$600.

A Novel Plan.

The London authorities have decided apon the novel municipal step of devoting £10,000 to the erection of a building to shelter families whose houses are in process of disinfection ifter outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Many Italians Victims of Lightning. The summer of 1899 will be historical in Italy for its tale of victims to lightning stroke.

### IT IS FAR TOO RISKY

Danger That Would Attend an Attempt to Rob Uncle Sam.

Transfer of Gold from Vaults of Treasury an Operation That Excites Speculation on Part of Spectators.

Frequently remarks are heard as to how easy it would be for a handful of determined desperadoes to make away with a rich haul of gold and silver as it is being transferred to or from the vaults of the treasury on one of the business thoroughfares of Washington.

At any hour of the day a curious crowd can be seen standing about the heavy platform at the Fifteenth street entrance to the treasury, upon which small iron safes containing money are being placed in transferring currency to and from the treasury.

Speculation is always indulged in and plans formulated for making away with a large amount of Uncle Sam's gold. Those who indulge in this wild speculation are not aware of the danger which would attend such an undertaking. In the first place, it requires at least three men to handle each safe, and it would be almost an impossibility to wrest these treasure-laden boxes from those who have charge of them.

Even if this should be done, the robbers would not be able to get away with the booty, as within an ineredibly short time a number of government employes armed to the teeth would be on the

It is not generally known, but inquiry developed the fact, that the seedy men who loiter around with no apparent aim in life are expert marksmen. They are armed with revolvers of the latest pattern and largest caliber obtainable. These men can shoot equally as well' with either hand, and would furnish highly entertaining sport for anyone who should attempt to rob Uncle Sam. They are employed by the government at a good salary.

Aside from these expert marksmen at the main entrance of the building will be found a number of watchmen, each of whom is provided with a rifle. Secreted in one of the rooms are two gatling guns, and it would require but a short time to bring all these arms into play. To the layman it would seem to be an apparently easy matter to steal some of the government's funds, but it is safe to say a number of lives would be forfeited if such a foolbardy attempt were made.

#### LABOR NOVEL BY A DUCHESS.

Anti-Semitic Story Brought Out in London to Counteract Socialistic Endeavors.

The duchess of Sutherland's novel, "One Hour and the Next," an anti-Semitic story, treating extensively of the melancholy side of the working class life, has just been brought out.

Robert Lester, the hero, a restless man of wealth and culture and the husband of an invalid wife, becomes an active socialistic worker and succeeds in making needless trouble between employers and employes in the manufacturing town he selects as the field for his theories into practice. He engaged in this work primarily to distract his mind from the sufferings of

his wife. To assist him in the task he employs as his secretary Agnes Stanier, a handsome, innocent girl, the daughter of a schoolmaster. She falls in love with him. She does not know that he is married. He never encouraged her, but, observing his influence, employs it to urge the girl to greater endeavors in the work he has undertaken.

At last she makes known her love for him, when he thrusts her so brusquely from him that had she not caught the corner of a table she would have fallen. Agnes' father had witnessed the scene and intervenes. Lester's socialistic endeavors collapse and he disappears.

The purpose of the duchess' novel is to show that the working classes cannot be benefited by sudden change, but only by gradual development.

### HAS A MARVELOUS INVENTION

A Racine Man Who Devises a Scheme to Work Phonograph and Typewriter Simultaneously.

Dr. Frank A. Traver, a dentist in Racine, Wis., claims to have about completed an invention that will be the greatest of its kind ever invented. The invention is called a phono typewriter and the inventor claims that by talking into an ordinary phonograph and the workings of the keys of a typewriting machine by electricity it will write down any dictation verbatim. Just how the vibrations of the voice with the aid of electricity will have sufficient power to operate the keys of the typewriter the doctor refuses to divulge, claiming that it is his secret until the machine is perfected and a patent secured, but he claims that it is very simple. Dr. Traver is backed by Racine capitalists who have witnessed the working of the machine, and it is understood are willing to back the in-

vention with a round sum of money. Dr. Traver desired to keep the invention a secret, but the clerk of the patent attorney who had the matter in hand gave it out, and the result has been that publication was made of the matter, and since then it has been found that persons have attempted to gain entrance to the doctor's office during the night. The model of the machine has been taken from the dental rooms and is now locked in a safe.

S. German Pig Iron. German production of pig-iron in the first half of the current year was 4,000,-900 tons, against 3,600,000 in the same time in 1898.

### MOTIONLESS FOR HALF A DAY.

Man Wins a Dollar by an Extraordinary Feat of Endurance in New York City.

Fischel Naussbaum has the courage of his convictions. On a wager of one dollar he stood for 12 hours the other day within a small chalked circle, and without once moving his feet from their position assumed when he stepped within the marked spot. The conditions of the task prevented Naussbaum from eating, drinking, smoking or moving his feet a fraction of an inch during the 12 hours. And this nerve-racking, muscle-testing task he accomplished for a single dollar—the wager.

"I will do it. I can do it," he exclaimed when the task was suggested

to him. "For a dollar you can't do it," challenger Isidor Krakow, the sweatshop

"Do it," retorted Naussbaum, scornfully, "I will wager my beard against your dollar that I can do it," and in a trice Naussbaum had drawn a circle on the floor and without any preparation in the least took his position in the

An East side sweatshop in New York city was the scene of Naussbaum's remarkable test of endurance. In the place were two score of men and women. A dozen sewing machines buzzed noisily. At three o'clock he had been standing motionless for eight hours. His feet had not moved a fraction of an inch. There was an almost imperceptible side motion of the body, caused by the violent throbbing of the blood through the veins. His hands hung down by his side. The veins swelled under the pressure of blood and showed like whipcords on his bared arms. Frequently he raised his arm above his head to relieve the sensation of pres-

At seven o'clock Naussbaum stepped from the ring. The twelfth hour had passed. He had won Krakow's dollar. He kept his beard.

### RUSKIN'S DISLIKE FOR BABIES

Letters from the Writer, Just Published, Tell of His Confessed Preference for Little Pigs.

Several new and interesting letters of Ruskin appear in the last London Outlook. The writer, obviously intimate with Ruskin, gives some charming pictures of the author, especially emphasizing his affection for young people, babes excepted. Ruskin wrote to his friend:

"I can't pretend to eare for things I don't care for. I don't care for babies; rather, I have an objection to them. I have no respect for them whatsoever. I like little pigs ever so much better. Here's my little wood woman come down to fetch me my fagots. She's got nine piglets to take care of, and her whole heart is set on them, and I call her Pigwinnia and inquire for the famfly anxiously every day. But you really must excuse me to care for inferior beings."

His whole heart smote him, for he writes a little later: "But, indeed, you sent me quite a dreadful little shriek when I said I didn't like babies, and you never wrote me a word more, and I was unhappy about it."

He always is ready to talk frankly He had known of celebrated Turner, the Brownings, the Carlyles. For Carlyle he had the greatest reverence and affection, and would speak with a sort of indignant amusement of such enthusiasts as wished to enshrine Jane Welsh Carlyle as a martyr to her man's bad temper.

He admitted that Carlyle was frequently grumpy. He was habitually

"But so am I"-and he was easily irritated. 'The shrew his wife knew this, and by the tones of her voice, as she rasped out his name, could set his nerves on edge."

### NEWPORT GIVES BABY PARTY.

Young Society People Dine and Dance in Picturesque Juvenile Costumes.

Some of the young society people who have prolonged their stay in Newport hit upon a novel plan to entertain themselves the other evening.

Invitations were sent out for a "baby party." The recipients were nonplused as to what a "baby party" might be, and Mrs. William Post, who had issued the cards, was besieged for an explanation. Miss Daisy Post, her daughter, explained that the guests would be expected to wear baby garments at dinner and at the dance that would fol-

Miss Fift Potter, Robert L. Gerry, Miss Edith Clapp, J. Ellis Postlewaite, Miss Edith Gray, Potter Palmer, Jr., and Miss Elsie French wore the most

conspicuous attire. Miss Edith Gray wore a long white christening robe that extended to the floor and a lace cap encircled her chubby face. The "infant" was reclining in an improvised baby carriage, which was pushed by Robert L. Gerry, attired in plaid kilts and a black velvet blouse.

Miss Fifi Potter looked pretty in short red dress. A white pinafore and a red sunbonnet completed the costume. Potter Palmer, Jr., appeared in a Little Lord Fauntleroy rig of blue velvet, with broad white linen collar and cuffs.

Has the "Get There" Spirit. . Three Oaks secured the Spanish cannon it set out to capture, it secured a visit and a speech from the president. and it has a promise from Admiral Dewey. Three Oaks is not large, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, but it has lots of "get there" and old-fashioned en-

. An Aged Pupil. A woman in St. George's workhouse. England, lost her sight entirely at the age of 93, and has since learned to read by touch.

# CALLED "SPITE ROOM."

Long, Narrow Room in Gen. Miles' Washington Home Has History.

Was Built Many Years Ago by Former Owner as Part of a High Wali Erected to Shut Out a Neighbor's Light.

Gen. Miles' new Washington house at 1736 N street has a long narrow room on the east side built above a court, and, though the general may not know it, it bears in the neighborhood the name of the "spite room." Years ago when the house passed from the hands of Admiral Radford into those of a moneyed New Yorker there lay to the east of it several vacant lots. Twenty feet of the one adjoining was bought at an exorbitant price to admit of a driveway being built from the stable to the street, also to light the halls and stairways and add beauty to the court in the rear of the house.

After completing the purchase the New Yorker went abroad and remained several years. On his return he noticed the house being built on the lot adjoining his had several windows opening upon his yard.

He investigated the building plans and found more than a dozen windows would profit by his expensive purchase. He remonstrated and threatened, but to no avail. He then started the foundation for a brick wall, and built and remonstrated, saying that unless the plan of the other house was changed he would build his wall to the top of the highest window.

Here the next door neighbor got the drop on the New Yorker, for the buildings regulations limited the height of such a wall.

However, the irate purchaser was not to be outwitted, and bired an architect to draw plans for a room long enough and high enough to shut out the light of every window that overlooked the place. The result was what is now Gen. Miles' "spite room," used by him as a repository for his valuable collection of Indian relies. An archway on the second floor connects it with the general's library, where he spends most of his time when he is at home.

# HELD BY THE NAVY.

Breech Blocks of the Big Guns at Cavite Arsenal Are on Board the Battleship Oregon.

Gossip which has attached itself to events in the Philippines includes a story brought by some of the officers who returned to this country with Admiral Dewey. It is to the effect that the breech blocks of the big guns at the Cavite arsenal are on board the Oregon in the possession of the navy, while the army is supposed to be in charge of the land fortifications. The history of this transfer of ordnance equipment is interesting. Shortly after the army took possession of the land forts overlooking Manila bay some one connected with the navy discovered that the large, finely built guns of ten and twelve-inch caliber were loaded ready for discharge, and to create havoc among the naval ships, toward which the guns were trained, it would only have been necessary for some careless person to have ulled the lanyards. This disconcerting news reached Admiral Dewey, who at once proceeded to the spot and formally took possession of the breech blocks of the guns. These were carried to the Olympia without delay, and later when the Oregon appeared on the scene they were transferred to that ship, where they are now, so far as anyone in Washington knows.

The intimation is said to have been sent to Gen. Otis that the breech blocks would be returned on some sign from the army that it was ready to receive them and to look out for the guns.

### COSTLY OVERSIGHT.

No Provision Made in the New Gunbont Viking to Accommodate Provision Stores.

Somebody will have to answer for a remarkable discovery which has been made on the gunboat Viking. The Viking had been fitted out at the Norfolk navy yard for duty in Central American waters. Much money had been expended on the equipment of the ship. It was equipped with a rapidfire battery and was stocked with the usual supplies, such as fuel and the many other articles of a warship on a long cruise. It was placed in commission a few days; ago and the detail of officers and selection of a crew was made. When it came to placing the provisions on board it was discovered that there was no place for such stores. No amount of figuring could rearrange the material on board so as to accommodate the provisions for the crew. There was nothing to do but remove all the supplies, disarm the ship, and put 16

out of commission. The naval authorities will probably investigate the matter in order to ascertain why a ship of the navy can be placed in commission and not have it discovered until after much delay and expense of equipment that the vessel cannot carry the required amount of sustenance for officers and erew. It is likely the Viking will be sold. It is of no use to the navy.

Heaps of Gold in New York.

Bigger heaps of gold than ever were buried by Capt. Kidd or carried by pirates on the Spanish main are hauled around New York city every week, says the Scientific American, to and from banks and wharves, in commonplace

Decrease of Grime. If the reports of the criminal courts of the state of New York may be taken as an index it is safe to say that crime is on the decrease in the United States.

### ADMIRAL DEWEY'S OLD SWORD

High Prices Being Offered for the Weapon He Carried Through the Manila Campaign.

In the shop of a tailor of New York who does a large business with army and navy officers there was on exhibition during the last week a sword which has attracted hundreds of visitors. This weapon, which originally cost the regulation price of about \$13, has no ornament attached to it save a gold cord sword knot. When the tailoring establishment first secured this weapon the gilding on the scabbard and hilt was tarnished, the scabbard itself lacked luster, and the blade, while devoid of nicks, notches and bloodstains, bore evidences of long use. Now it is as bright as it was when turned out of the factory. It is the sword which Admiral Dewey carried all through the memorable campaign which won for him a warm place in the hearts of the Ameriean people.

Compared with the weapon which was presented with so much ceremony on the steps of the capitol a few weeks ago it was a poor blade. The steel is of the ordinary kind of which such weapons are made, and the gold is not even skin deep, but is just washed on, and still it is safe to say that if by any chance the admiral should offer the two weapons for sale he would be likely to realize more for the \$13 article than for that which cost the general government several thousand dollars. In fact, two or three men have made bids on it already, and the tailor says that up to the time it was returned to the admiral \$1,500 was the top figure offered. This was by a naval officer, who would probably have to mortgage his pay for several months, but he would undoubtedly be willing to do this if he could secure this combination of steel, sharkskin and brass.

#### CENSUS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Director Merriam Takes Steps to Secure Accurate Statistics of This Industry.

The census office is sending out a

large number of letters and circulars, intended to perfect the work of making a complete census of dairy products. Hitherto the annual change of managers, owners and directors, which takes place in so many cheese factories and creameries, has rendered practically impossible the work of securing accurate dairy statistics. As this is the season during which factories and creameries close up the year's business, Director Merriam suggests that before doing so they prepare a detailed statement of the quantity of milk or cream purchased and the amount paid for it; the amount of butter or cheese produced; the amount received from the sale of each; the amount of capital invested in plant and machinery and the amount paid for wages, etc. The items should be varied properly to fit cases where factories or creameries are co-

operative. As these statistics, which must cover the year 1899, will not be gathered by the enumerators until June 1, 1900, the director stated in an interview recently that he "hoped factory managers or owners would preserve the statements he is asking for until the enumerators shall arrive to use them next June."

### TALK OF A ROYAL BETROTHAL

Gossip Says Future Czar of Russia Is to Wed an English Princess.

Princess Margaret, of Connaught, is said to be destined to marry Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, brother of the czar, and heir presumptive to the imperial crown. The young people have seen much of each other in Scotland, and the match, if arranged, will be one of inclination.

Margaret Victoria Augusta Charlotte Norah, the "little princess," as the British people call her, is the eldest daughter of the duke of Connaught, third son of the queen. She is beautiful, after a childish fashion, and does not look as old as 17, her actual age. She was born March 11, 1882.

Grand Duke Michael is 21 years old. a typical Russian in appearance and habit of mind. He is stronger than his brother, much resembling his gigantic father, Alexander III. He has strong sympathy with the Russian national aspirations of "world empire," and would push his country's advantages in Asia and take a dominant attitude in Europe should be inherit the responsibilities of the throne.

# QUEER SUIT OF THEATER.

Pay Is Demanded for the Ringing of a Bell in the Saloon Between the Acts.

Shubert Bros., lessees of the Baker theater at Rochester, N. Y., have commenced a novel suit in the municipal court against Matthews & Service, of that city. The plaintiffs allege that the defendants are owners and managers of the saloon and restaurant at West Main and North Fitzhugh streets, and that for 14 weeks, beginning December 31, 1898, the plaintiffs rendered service to the defendants in ringing a bell in the saloon from the theater stage to let people in the saloon know when the curtain was about to go up. The services consisted in pressing an electric button, which rang a bell in the saloon. The Shuberts claim that their services were worth five dollars a week, and demand judgment for \$70.

Pocket Cuspidor. A pocket cuspidor has been patented by a New Hampshire man, comprising a receptacle to fit in the pocket, with a telescoping tube fitting in the neck of the receptacle, a cap fitting tightly over the end of the tube, with a spring and

cord arrangement to open the cap when

the tube is drawn out.

# FIND INDIAN RELICS.

Valuable Specimens Unearthed in South Dakota.

Work of Indian Mound Builders Skeletons of Nine Persons Found, Also Pipes Different from Any Ever Before Discovered.

Excavations being made on a farm owned by S. H. Elliott and his son im Brown county, S. D., have brought to light some important and interesting specimens of the work of Indian mound builders. Next their building is an Indian mound five or six feet high, through which they have been digging with a view to constructing a barn. The excavation they have made is about 16 feet wide and five feet deep, and in: the course of digging they have found the skeletons of nine persons, who were evidently Indians.

In some instances only the skulls have been found, but in others there were bones enough to show that the people buried there were very tall. Some femur bones have been found. which are of such great length as toindicate that the possessors of them in life must have been from seven to eight feet in height. The bodies appear to have been buried face downward, with the bodies doubled backward, so that the heels rested upon the back of the head or at the sides of it. The bones of one child were found, by the side of which was found the skeleton of a dog. which, it is supposed, was killed and buried with its young master in order. that it might accompany him as a playmate in his journey to the happy hunting grounds. A considerable number of flint arrow heads and some stone pipes were found near the bones.

Mr. Elliott says the pipes are different from anything that has ever been found in other Indian mounds opened; in that region. They are not made of the red pipestone almost invariably used, and they are made in different; form. Instead of having an opening atthe side for a stem they have a hole in the bottom. In shape they are much like the modern cob pipe, and are of a very hard stone, something like flint, which must have been very difficult to

work into shape from the original rock. Further digging is yet to be done in the mound, after which a collection of the articles unearthed will be gathered and placed on exhibition. There are evidences in the vicinity showing that the earth used in the construction of the mound was dug up and carried from a distance of ten or twelve rods.

WILL NOT BE DEPORTED.

The Woman Leper Held at San Francisco Wins Her Fight Against Being Sent to Honolulu.

Mrs. Todd, the woman confined in the pest house at San Francisco suffering from leprosy, has won her fight against the government, and will not be deported. It was the intention of Commissioner Powderly to send this woman to the leper colony at Fionolulu, and to use a government transport as a means of transportation. The matter was referred to Secretary Root, and, after aconference with Gen. Shafter, it was decided that the transports could not be used for this purpose, and it was doubtful if the municipal authorities at Honolulu would permit the woman-

to land. It was feared by the secretary of war, in the event of a refusal by the Honolulu authorities to allow her to land, that-Mrs. Todd would have to be taken to the Philippine islands, as the transport could not return from the Hawaiian islands to the United States for the purpose of bringing back Mrs. Told. The laws of Hawaii are still in effect. and, therefore, the department could not take the matter in its hands and instruct those in authority to permit Mrs.

Todd to land. This unfortunate woman will spend the rest of her days in the pest house. nt San Francisco, unless the British authorities see fit to take charge of her. They have shown no disposition to do so, however, and when this government. offered to give the British consul jurisdiction in the case they declined to receive her, and there was nothing left for the government to do but to keep her at San Francisco, as she objects to going to Hawaii.

### PLEASED WITH THE GUN.

Tests of the New Type of Four-Inch Gun Adopted by the Navy Highly Satisfactory.

Gratification is expressed by Rear Admiral O'Neill at the performance of the new type of four-inch gun adopted for the navy. The first gun of this type has been exhaustively tested at the Indian Head proving grounds, and has given results which are considered superior to those obtained from any gun of similar caliber yet manufactured abroad. With a pressure of 16 tons, the gun fired a shell with a velocity of 3,042; feet per second. The new gun will take the place of the old four-inch, whose best velocity was 2,200 feet per second.

Too Big for His Heart. A policeman in Long Island city died recently from phenomenal growth. In other words, heart trouble, supposed to have resulted from the abnormal growth of the body, is supposed to have caused death. He was six feet three inches tall. It is said that he never . stopped growing, and continued to grow taller every year. Patrolman Darcy weighed about 250 pounds, and he was not a fat man, though his brother, a police captain in the town, was the

largest man "on the force." Long Work and Small Pay. Women employed on Japanese tea farms work 12 hours and are paid 15 cents a day.

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