

SAVES A BIG SUM.

Discovery That the Government Was Being Cheated on Silk Imports. An important discovery which means the saving to the government of at least a quarter of a million dollars a year has been made by Silk Examiner Brown, of the New York port. He found that the statement in Heyl's tables of weights and measures of the equivalent in grammes and grains of the Japanese momme, the weight in which the Habutai and Kaiki silks are entered, was erroneous. Heyl gives the momme as equal to 1.75 grammes, while the correct equivalent is 3.75 grammes. The Habutai and Kaiki silks were assessed in the Dingley tariff three dollars a pound, a rate equal to about 70 per cent ad valorem. In the three months preceding the passage of that act the imports of them fell off almost entirely, but in the past month or so they have largely increased, and these recent imports have been liquidated by the collector according to Heyl's tables, which gave the equivalents too small by more than a half. The importers thus have been paying a duty of less than 50 per cent, instead of a duty of 70 per cent, and the government has been losing heavily. However, as the government has the right to liquidate all cases within a year, it will suffer no actual loss.

RUSH OF PATENTS EXPECTED.

Foreign Inventors Have Only a Month to Protect Themselves. The patent office expects to do a rushing business during the month which has just opened, owing to the fact that the patent law passed during the Cleveland administration takes effect New Year's day. Heretofore it has been customary for American manufacturers who desire to realize from their manufacture of some new article to have an examination of all American patents until they find some attractive device. After the present month, however, they will be able to select for manufacture any foreign patent that has not been patented in this country. These ideas and inventions they can use without payment of any kind to the inventor, inasmuch as the foreign patent does not cover American rights. After January 1 no patent can be obtained in America for any invention already patented in a foreign country, save where the foreign application is of very recent date. Hence the present holders of foreign patents who desire to realize from their inventions will have to file their claims within the next few weeks, otherwise they will become public property on this side of the water.

ARMOR PLATE STANDS TEST.

Big Guns Fired at a Piece of Kearsarge Turret Armor. A plate of armor representing a lot of 500 tons for the eight-inch turrets of the battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky was tested at the Indian Head proving ground the other day. For testing purposes two eight-inch shells, one a Carpenter projectile and the other a Wheeler-Sterling, were fired at the plate, one at a high and the other at a low velocity. Neither penetrated nor cracked the plate, but partially welded themselves into it. The test was regarded as entirely satisfactory and insures the acceptance of the armor. The delivery of the armor will wind up the contract which the government has with the Carnegie company for the supply of armor for naval vessels, and it is not expected that any more will be ordered pending the settlement of the whole armor question by congress.

KHEDIVE HAS NEW DAUGHTER.

Favored Wife of the Egyptian Ruler Increases the Family. The khediv of Egypt has been safely delivered of a daughter. The khediv, prior to her espousal was the favorite in the harem and was known as Lady Tikou Hattum. She is about 36 years old, and, therefore, about four years older than the khedive. This daughter is the second she has borne. Almost immediately after the birth of the first Abbas Hemi signed a marriage contract with her in the presence of the Egyptian ministers, that act constituting a marriage to a slave, and there being no public ceremony. It was expected, even in native circles, that she would follow the European custom in espousing her, but there were complicated questions of Egyptian law involved.

Costly Pipes.

Pipe-smoking is on the increase in New York, a circumstance probably due to the prevalent angomania. The swell young men have very costly pipes. One shown by a fashionable worker in gold and precious stones is quoted at \$110, while some have even surpassed this, being valued at \$250. Silver-mounted meerschaum pipes worth \$25 are quite common. There are some plain pipes, not carved, offered for as low as \$15.

Women in Russia.

There is a college for dentistry at St. Petersburg, Russia, and one at Wilna, at which most of the students are women; and women have during the last two years been admitted as pupils to apothecaries in Russia, with the restriction that they must not be more than one of the sex at each apothecary's.

Warning to Klondikers.

The British emigrant's information office has issued a warning against the syndicates professing to dispatch parties of emigrants and prospectors to the Klondike.

Rome's Exports.

The value of the cheese imported from Rome is only \$1,000 less than the value of the paintings, cheese being the second article on the list of exports from Rome.

THE STARS OF HEAVEN.

Important Discoveries Made at Flagstaff (Ariz.) Observatory.

New Facts Gained Concerning Old Stars—Five Hundred New Double Stars Found—New Theories Advanced.

Dr. T. J. See, one of the staff of observers at the astronomical observatory maintained at Flagstaff, A. T., by Percival Lowell, of Boston, is in that city and has described the recent important work undertaken at the observatory. The study of Mars is the chief work and the problems to be solved in the planet involve the measurement of fine lines supposed to be canals, which are found on its surface. Since 1896 the work has been prosecuted with the new 24-inch telescope. In 1896 Mr. Lowell detected and proved conclusively that the two inner planets, Mercury and Venus, rotate on their axis in the same time in which they revolve in their orbits.

Mr. Douglas has very recently determined the rotations of Jupiter's third and fourth satellites and it is found that these bodies show only one face toward Jupiter.

During 1896 the observatory began the exploration of the southern skies for new double stars and nebulae.

Dr. See and his assistant have had charge of this work and have now come out to publish a report of their new discoveries.

It was announced at Harvard college that since August, 1896, Dr. See has discovered with the Lowell telescope about 500 new double stars, besides measuring some 700 objects noticed by previous observers. Many of the new stellar systems discovered by Dr. See are large and brilliant.

Just before leaving Flagstaff, Dr. See secured a measurement of the companion of Procyon, which has been seen heretofore only at the Great Observatory.

Another object of great importance measured on the same morning was a remarkably difficult double star, discovered by senior Alvan Clark, Barnham is the only living astronomer who has measured this object and it is now more difficult than when seen by him in 1858, because the orbital motion is causing it to narrow up.

The new double star discoveries are interpreted by Dr. See to suggest that this formation of rings is only an exception to the rule; that the more usual method of the formation of a system from one great original mass is that central mass divides en masse, the satellite beginning life as it were in nearly its ultimate form.

One of the side issues of the work during the present year at the Lowell observatory was the measurement of twinkling of stars. They are said to twinkle like the passages of a school of brightly illuminated fishes of different sizes. The number of patches flowing past a given point on the field in a second were counted at various times and from the results it appeared that the twinkling was due to waves in the atmosphere of small size and caused by inequalities in temperature of adjacent bodies of air. There were some other conclusions, affecting corrections of astronomical observation, that were of a more technical value.

FIGHT WITH A BEAR.

Thrilling Experience of Two Michigan Hunters Near Centerville, Mich. Charles S. Hoyce, of Centerville, Mich., and Lou Valentine noticed one of their bear traps gone from the swamp where it had been placed. Following the trail, they found both trap and bear among the branches of a hemlock tree, 35 feet from the ground. The bear looked small at that height, so Hoyce commenced to climb the tree. When within a few feet of the bear it began to descend, striking Hoyce on the head, and both came down together. Bruin grabbed Hoyce and gave him a hugging he will never forget, but Valentine at the risk of his life rushed in and killed the "cub," which tipped the beam at 225 pounds. Hoyce was not much hurt, but he remarked: "Lon, I've hardly enough clothing left on to pad a crutch."

FEARS AMERICAN JINGOES.

Chronicler's Insulting Objection to Statement in London. David Christie Murray is causing some embarrassment in London by exploiting the idea of a national subscription in England for the erection of a statue to Washington in London. The proposition has elicited opinions from a few prominent Americans, including Thomas F. Bayard and Ambassador Hay. Both the latter approve in pleasantly vague terms. The Chronicle, in its favorite attitude of the candid friend, is the first to raise an objection, which takes the form of an insinuating suggestion that the "boisterous American jingoes" in London might make the statue of the Father of His Country—the Chronicle misquotes it as "father of his people"—the object of an unedifying demonstration.

Aerial Weather Stations.

Permanent aerial weather stations are proposed as a means of obtaining data permitting of more accurate forecasts of weather. It has been found that the condition of the atmosphere at great altitudes has a direct bearing on subsequent weather, and it is proposed to send recording instruments aloft by means of spherical anchored balloons, these being sustained by gas as required through a tube in the anchor rope. The records could be duplicated on the surface by suitable electrical connections and apparatus.

Effect of Rain on Buildings.

Builders say that the walls built during a rainy season are the strongest and that, when mortar dries quickly, it becomes crumbly and possesses little binding power.

FAST TIME MADE.

Train on Union Pacific Runs 519 Miles in 559 Minutes.

The Union Pacific has made another record for fast running. A mail train has been shot across the country from Cheyenne to Council Bluffs, 519 miles, in 559 minutes. This is actual elapsed time and includes all stops. Engines were changed twice and one engineer was relieved. All the regular stops were made and one extra, when an air brake hose burst and had to be repaired at the expense of several minutes of time.

A burned-out bridge near Medicine Bow, Wyo., delayed the mail five hours and thirty minutes. The train reached Cheyenne five hours late. It was necessary to reach Council Bluffs on time or pay a heavy fine to the government. It was a most remarkable run against time. Cheyenne to Sydney, 102 miles, was made in 107 minutes. Engineers were changed and the run from Sydney to North Platte, 123 miles, was made in 118 minutes. On this run a stop was made at Julesburg to get the Colorado mail. From North Platte to Grand Island, 138 miles, the time was 154 minutes, engineers being changed at Lexington and other stops being necessary. From Grand Island to Council Bluffs, 156 miles, the time was 165 minutes, including a stop of over five minutes to fix a burst tank hose, regular station stops, a delay by a Missouri Pacific freight train entering the Omaha yards and other annoyances.

The mail was landed in Council Bluffs with 13 minutes to spare, the actual average running from Cheyenne being a little more than 62 1/2 miles an hour.

The most wonderful burst of speed was shown on the 100-mile stretch between Grand Island and Ames. This was covered in 93 minutes, actual time. From this must be deducted five minutes for the delay with the broken hose at Columbus, making the time 88 minutes, including all regular stops, or more than 68 miles an hour.

BULL RUNS OFF A WHARF.

Lively Chase in Boats in San Francisco. While a couple of vagabonds were driving five bulls and a steer from Jackson street wharf to South San Francisco two of the bulls got into a fight at East and Folsom streets, and one of the animals ran the other off the wharf near Petersen's boat house. There was a fall of about five feet and the bull sank from sight between a couple of small boats. He arose, however, and struck out toward Oakland. Half a dozen boatmen were quickly in pursuit with tow ropes as lassos and boat hooks as weapons of defense. Jack Healy got a rope over the horns after a long struggle, for the bull was a good swimmer and was vicious even in the water. With a plunge such as a hippopotamus might make the bull broke away and the hunt was resumed. Nearly two hours elapsed, with the savage animal under the wharf about half the time, before a second capture was effected by Albert Heaver, a boatman at Crowley's. A heavy rope was then put on and the animal conducted through the water to a chute. A gang of men took hold of the rope and the bull was dragged up the incline. On the wharf viciousness was still displayed, and the vagabond who remained to direct the boatman had a lively combat before he could induce the bull to proceed toward South San Francisco.

YAMPA SOLD TO EMPEROR.

German Ruler Buys the American Yacht for Personal Pleasure. The steel cruising schooner-yacht Yampa, which has just returned to the port of New York after an absence of six months abroad, has been sold by her owner, Richard Snyden Palmer, of the New York Yacht club, to the emperor of Germany. When the Yampa was at Kiel, an admiral of the German navy, by direction of the emperor, it is understood, visited the yacht two or three times, and made an critical examination of her as practicable under the circumstances and was seemingly well pleased with her construction and arrangements. The Yampa is a representative American yacht and in numerous races in her early days and on her long ocean cruises has demonstrated that in model, speed, construction and sea-going qualities she cannot be easily surpassed. She was designed by A. Cary Smith of Chester W. Chapin, an old yachtmaster and member of the New York Yacht club since 1876, and was built by the Harlan & Hollingsworth company, of Wilmington, Del., in 1877. She is of steel, 135 feet over all, 11 foot water line, 27 feet beam, 13 feet 3 inches deep and draws 14 feet of water.

NOT RICH GOLD COUNTRY.

Warning of United States Consul O'Hara in Venezuela. In closing a report to the state department about gold in Nicaragua, Consul O'Hara, at San Juan del Norte, says: "Much of the newspaper talk about gold in these countries is pure imagination, and while I have faith enough in the gold fields of eastern Nicaragua to believe the gold hunters having both the time and money to prospect a year or so might find poorer gold than elsewhere, yet I feel that it is my duty to warn Americans not to come here in the expectation of getting rich in a few years. Up to the present time, with but three or four exceptions, no one has succeeded in making a fortune in the mining districts of Nicaragua."

Stamp-Ed Bicycle Frames.

Bicycle frames stamped out in two halves by one operation from a steel plate are a recent Birmingham novelty. The halves are clamped together, and though the frame is not so elegant as one made by another process it is perfectly rigid and can be made at a cost of two dollars instead of \$12.50.

Literatures of the World.

A Frenchman estimates that there are in the world about 10,000 libraries.

Bulletin Financier. Bulletin Commercial

Mardi, 1er février 1898.

COMPTOIR D'ÉCHANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Quota d'aujourd'hui \$5,211,663 00 \$502,508 00
Même temps de la semaine précédente \$6,185,380 00 729,786 00

MARCHÉ MONÉTAIRE.

Nouveaux-Orléans—Papiers exceptionnels 7 6
Papiers sur papier 4 4
Papiers sur papier 4 4
Papiers hypothécaires 7 6

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MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS.

Le Coton Exchange a rapporté aujourd'hui des ventes de 2,110 balles et 3,125 à arriver. Les cotons touchés sont au 1/2 plus bas que les cotons suivants.

Ordinaire No 7 7 1/2
Ordinaire No 8 7 1/2
Ordinaire No 9 7 1/2
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