

The Weekly Sickle.

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NO 29

WEEKLY SICKLE

R. C. EVANS, Editor.

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The Electrical Exhibition at Paris.

The exhibition, which opened Aug. 11, 1881, is held in the great Palace of Industry, originally erected for the World's Fair of 1878. The palace fronts upon the magnificent Avenue of the Champs Elysees, in a triangular park, between the avenue and the Seine.

On entering the palace from the Champs Elysees the splendid array of novel exhibits and brilliant decorations dazzles and confuses the visitor. The numerous pavilions, draped and ornamented with the flags of all nations, the strange machinery, the multitudinous lights, together with the vast proportions of the hall, ever sweep the sight, and it is not until after the lapse of several minutes that the order and plan of the exhibition are apparent.

In the center of the nave, resting on a great basin of water surrounded by plants, stands a veritable lighthouse. At its base floats the electric boat of Trouve.

At each side of the entrance to the nave are huge lions, and above is a list of iron work bearing Soliman's lamps. The half of the hall to the right is allotted entirely to France, which has twice as many exhibitors as all the rest of the world. The other half of the hall has been allotted to foreign nations, the principal divisions being assigned to England, Germany, and America. The few smaller divisions are occupied by Austria, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Hungary, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. A striking feature of the British section is a handsome pavilion, with a red and white striped canopy, containing the electrical apparatus used by the post-office departments of London.

Outside are several large tables on which are arranged the electrical inventions and apparatus of the British exhibitors. One of the most conspicuous and popular exhibits in this section is a full-sized lamp carrying two Siemens' lamps. Here also may be seen the great induction coil made by Mr. Appell at the suggestion of Mr. Spenser, the eminent electrician. This coil produces a spark 12 inches long.

The German exhibits are presided over by a host of Germans, whose domain embraces three large departments. The electric railway of Siemens is outside the building. The American division is made conspicuous by the triple cluster of flags grouped upon the pavilion. In this pavilion are established the United States Bureau service exhibits. On Gray Electro-acoustic telegraph, including the multiple or harmonic system, the first telephone, the first electric telephone of Bell, and many others. Everything that has been brought to the American Exhibition is a remarkable one, and the Edison department promises to be as interesting as it is extensive.

The Belgian department has a very interesting display of lamps and telephones. Italy is represented by a beautiful pavilion, which has 2100 on one side and 1000 on the other, in large hall, and whose contents, among other things, the electrical apparatus of Volta and Galvani.

The Russian department exhibits among other things, the apparatus of N. M. Lachand and Tolstoloff.

The Danish department has a large collection, the principal feature of which is the great electrical machine of Van Marum and an enormous Leyden battery.

The Swedish and Norwegian departments are prominent to be interesting, as do also the Russian, but as yet very little of the machinery is in operation.

The French pavilions dedicated to the departments of electricity are very interesting. In one is the "Administration of Telegraph Lines," which shows all the apparatus employed. One pavilion, dedicated to the "City of Paris," shows all the electrical applications which have been put into use there, including the time service. Many of the railroad companies are represented by systems for indicating the movements of trains, etc., etc. Here also are wagons having electric brakes, and many other marvelous and interesting inventions.

The beautiful galvanoplastic objects of the well-known firm of Christofle attract much attention. The monumental staircase connecting to the galleries is at the lower end of the hall. A number of the old-fashioned systems surrounded the staircase making a brilliant display.

The hall of the balloons will be lighted by the Jablochhoff system; the great saloon of honor by the Maxim; the hall of the comparison of telephones by the Pature accumulator; as also the bath room and kitchen. The experiments of electric photography will be made by the Wilde light, and Edison lamps will illuminate the hall of conference and the adjoining hall.

The exhibition of M. Theodor glides above the heads of the spectators on the ground floor along a wire from one side of the galleries to the other.

The lower galleries to the left are devoted to the motor and magneto-electric machines. The other galleries to the left are dedicated to the accumulators of plants, to the exhibition of the ministers of marine and of war, and the exhibition of the well-known firm of Breguet—Scientific American.

Dr. Charles P. Cullen, a German physician of New York, has just returned from Aspinwall and Panama, and gives a very gloomy account of the country and the prospects of the De Lesseps scheme. "Many of your friends think of going to Panama," said the doctor to a Tribune reporter, "advise them not to. In all my travels I never saw a more abject, poverty-stricken, and forsaken people. I was induced to go there by the promise of a large business in my profession. There was plenty for me to do, but no money in it, and I came away as soon as I could. There are 230 people at work on the Panama Canal, 200 of whom are negroes. Half of them are sick, haggard, and starving, and the death rate is appalling, although the fever has been suppressed as much as possible. There are not more than 100 able-bodied men at work at any time, and the force is constantly being recruited, because the laborers all die of disease, then from their places and starve, or die of fever and a peculiar wasting away of the system. The canal company wants to get all the laborers possible, and it offers the inducement of high wages, board, plenty of work, and free passage. Agents gather laborers up wherever they can find them and take them by boat to Aspinwall and rail to Panama. They receive \$17 a month, and the worst food imaginable. They are crowded into shacks and fed on the cheapest kind of food: rice twice a day, tea or coffee in the morning only, beef once a day, and not bread; fresh meat, never. Once there, it is impossible for laborers ever to return, as the men have no money, and are in the hands of the Aspinwall agents, who sell them for a year to save. While people soon become yellow and look like death, and they are taken to the Aspinwall agents."

Work is advancing very slowly on the canal, and there is nothing to show for the money spent. It is generally believed in that country that the canal will never be finished. It is about as wide as Broadway from house to house. There are some staves driven down and planks laid along and the earth stirred up a little, but that is all. It seems hardly possible to live in that country. It is unwholesome and malarial, and infested with alligators and serpents and poisonous insects. I was taken in the hand by an insect, and my arm has swollen up and been use-

less for a month. The population is composed of negroes and Spanish and French of the lowest class. The climate is warm—terribly warm—moist and oppressive, and tends to induce the use of stimulants. St. Louis beer costs 25 cents a bottle, Milwaukee beer 25 cents. Whisky is cheap, and the best imported Holland gin only 40 cents a quart. Beef and fish are very plentiful and cheap, as are also fabrics. On the whole, the country is no place for any but a very patient man with plenty of money.—Scientific American.

Settling the War.

In the winter of 1861 Pony Mountain, in the Grandditch Valley, was full of game, and Federal and Confederate soldiers were sent to shoot squirrels and trap rabbits when off picket duty. Care was taken to avoid each other, but many collisions occurred and more than one poor fellow's bones are bleaching under the dark pines to-day. One day a member of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry encountered a "Johnny" face to face as they both entered a thicket. Both had guns on their shoulders, and both were surprised to speak for some time. The Confederates yelled out: "Say, you Yank, what are you down here for?"

"To put down the rebellion." "Ye can't do it, nobow." "Not you \$10 we can." "Look here," said the "reb" as he came closer and put down his gun to indulge in gestures, "I'll play ye a game of euchre just which side is going to whip."

This was agreed to, and a pack of cards was produced. The "Yank" took the first deal and made a point. The "reb" took the second and made a march. At the next deal the score was even, and pretty soon they stood four to four. The play was careful, but the Confederacy had the winning cards, and as the "Johnny" took the last trick with an ace he jumped up and yelled: "I know it—I know it. Now, yank, are ye square?" "I am."

"Then go back and stop this 'ere war 'ording to agreement and mount your cutter and go home. Johnny! Bah! for me! I know there must be some way to settle this dog-gone war if I could only get beyond the pickets!"—Detroit Free Press.

Drink for Laborers.

When you have any heavy work to do, do not take either beer, cider or spirits. By far the best drink is thin oatmeal and water, with a little sugar. The proportions are one quart of a pint of oatmeal to two or three quarts of water, according to the heat of the day, and your work and thirst; it should be well boiled, and then an ounce or an ounce and a half of brown sugar added. If you find it thicker than you like, add three quarts of water. Before you drink it, shake up the oatmeal well through the liquid. In summer drink this cold; in winter, hot. You will find it not only quenching, but it will give you more strength and endurance than any other drink. If you can not boil it, you can take a little oatmeal mixed with cold water and sugar, but this is not so good. Always boil it, if you can. If at any time you have to make a long day, as a laborer, or a man of business, increase the oatmeal to half a pound or even three-quarters and the water to three quarts if you are likely to be very thirsty. If you cannot get oatmeal, wheat flour will do, but not quite so well. For quenching thirst, few things are better than weak coffee and a little sugar. One ounce of coffee and half an ounce of sugar, boiled in two quarts of water and cooled, is a very thin quenching drink. Cold tea has the same effect, but neither is so supporting as oatmeal. Thin cocoa is also very refreshing and supporting, likewise, but is more expensive than oatmeal.—Ex.

A one line item here you are!

M. D. ALFORD, Insurance Agent.

MAZOMANIE, WISCONSIN. Represents the Mutual Insurance Companies, Continental, Marine, N. Y., Atlas, General, Liverpool and London, Globe, and North British Mutual Life. Office in Brown's Block.



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