

Business and Personal.

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Wanted—A Practical Machinist as Foreman of a Shop near New York, employing about twenty men. Must be thoroughly familiar with Steam Engines and Boilers, and a good draughtsman. Address R., Scientific American Office, with particulars of residence, age, references, where last employed, salary expected. No attention will be paid to communications that do not comply with above requirements.

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Small Tools and Gear Wheels for Models. List free. Goodnow & Wightman, 23 Cornhill, Boston, Mass.

Notes & Queries

E. will find details of the process of transferring engravings to glass on p. 298, vol. 31.—J. R. M. will find a rule for calculating speeds of pulleys on pp. 28, 73, vol. 25.—L. K. Y. can make a copper dip by the process described on p. 30, vol. 31.—G. H. B. will find formulae for calculating the horse power of an engine on p. 16, vol. 29, and p. 54, vol. 30. For a process for making ether, see p. 34, vol. 31.—T. F. S. can calculate the supply of water through his pipes at any given head by the formulae given on p. 48, vol. 29.—A. M. can refine rosin oil by the process given on p. 263, vol. 31.—C. H. F. can remove ink stains from woolen fabrics by the method described on p. 139, vol. 29.—A. S. T. can temper tools for cutting granite by the process given on p. 202, vol. 31.—W. H. will find a good recipe for mucilage on p. 202, vol. 31.—A. M. and H. A. do not send sufficient data.—G. H., J. F. S., and many others should refer to p. 48, vol. 29, as to friction of water in pipes.—C. F. S. will find directions for making rubber stamps on p. 156, vol. 31.—G. D. F. will find a method of softening paint brushes on p. 75, vol. 28. The manufacture of plaster of Paris from gypsum is described on p. 393, vol. 29.—C. A. S. will find the details of engineers' pay in the navy on p. 394, vol. 31.—J. W. will find how to ascertain the radius of an arc, when chord and height are known, by varying the formula given on p. 139, vol. 31.—C. A. H. will find directions for making molds for small castings on p. 236, vol. 24.—J. B. can ascertain the lifting power of hydrogen by referring to p. 74, vol. 31, and can calculate accordingly for other gases.—G. F. L. will find the recipe for a hair stimulant on p. 363, vol. 31.

(1) C. S. asks: Which has the most strength, a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bar of iron with a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hole in it, or a solid bar of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch iron? A. The solid bar.

(2) G. H. B. asks: 1. Are cannon ever molded of wrought iron, so as to retain their malleability? A. No. 2. Is wrought iron ever run into molds? A. No.

(3) V. L. W. asks: If an engine will do less work with 40 lbs. of steam, will it be better to carry just 40 lbs., or would it be better to let it go up to about 50 or 55 lbs., in order to have dry steam? A. If the steam of a higher pressure is wire-drawn down to 40 lbs., it is better to carry only the latter pressure; but in an engine with an automatic cut-off, the higher pressure would be the best.

(4) E. C. H. asks: What becomes of the exhaust steam when an engine running at full speed is reversed? Does not the engine pump air into the boiler? A. No.

Is it at all probable that, during the great conflagration of Chicago, providing the wind was favorable, that the smoke or scent of fire would be observed in the vicinity of Philadelphia? A. No.

Is the 1,000 foot tower all a hoax, or is to be erected for the Centennial? A. Address the designers. What kind of joint should be used to close the blow-off port of a boiler by a cap, so to make the most serviceable and reliable joint? A. It is sufficient to screw on the cap.

(5) Z. says: I read in Ganot's "Physics," p. 390, that "as a gas is increased $\frac{1}{2}$ of its volume for each degree C., it follows that at a temperature of 273° C. the volume of any gas, measured at zero, is doubled. In like manner, if the temperature of a given volume at zero were lowered through 273°, the contraction would be equal to the volume, that is, the volume would not exist." It appears to me that, if the volume is doubled for every 273° of heat, it would be reduced one half for the same number of degrees of cold. Therefore at -273° the volume would be $\frac{1}{2}$ of what it would be measured at zero. At -273° x 2 it would be about $\frac{1}{4}$; at -273° x 3 it would be $\frac{1}{8}$. If this be correct, there appears to be no more reason for placing the zero of temperature at -273° C. than at any other point in the scale. A. If the gas is heated 1° C., its volume is increased $\frac{1}{273}$. Similarly if it is cooled 1°, its volume is decreased $\frac{1}{273}$; if cooled 2°, the volume is decreased $\frac{2}{273}$, and so on; so that on being cooled 273°, the volume is decreased $\frac{273}{273}$.

(6) C. F. O. Jr. says: A boiler whose dimensions are 9 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches diameter, with a steam dome 20 inches in diameter and 24 inches high, the shell being $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick, and the heads $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick: made of the very best C. H. No. 1 Pennsylvania iron (except the sheets at the bottom half of the boiler and the back head, which are of Eureka or Silgo fire-box iron) is to be used for supplying a steam heating apparatus with steam at 20 lbs. pressure. It is to be tested to a hydrostatic pressure of 50 lbs. to the square inch. Is not this high pressure injurious, and will it not weaken the boiler materially? A. If the test is properly performed, by filling the boiler with water and heating it, we do not think that any material injury will result.

(7) M. H. K. asks: What is the simplest mechanism which I can use to turn a light machine, very rapidly if possible, using an air pressure from a fan? I would like to have the air enter at the center and discharge at circumference of the motor. A. Something on the plan of the Barker mill would no doubt serve the purpose.

(8) G. C. P. Jr. asks: What is the cause of the thumping noise in engines? A. Probably water in the cylinder and pipe.

(9) W. S. S. says: 1. I want to make a cylinder casting with ports about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide. What can I make the cores of so that I can clean the ports out easily? A. Of baked clay and sand.

2. Would it do to make the patterns as for large cylinders? A. Yes. 3. Would ports $\frac{1}{4}$ inch by $\frac{1}{16}$ inches be large enough for a cylinder $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 3 inches? A. Yes.

(10) C. S. asks: I want to use 2 horse power; could I not get it from a 10 horse engine as cheaply as I could from a 2 horse engine? A. In some cases, the large engine might be run as economically as the small one, but in general, no.

What pay do locomotive engineers and firemen get? A. Engineers from \$80 to \$100 a month, firemen from \$40 to \$60.

How is acid made out of wood, for setting the colors in cloth? A. It may be prepared by treating nutgalls with ether.

(11) G. B. asks: Does it make any difference as to the safety of a bridge whether a train is run over it at the usual or at reduced speed? A. It is safer to cross the bridge at a reduced rate of speed.

(12) C. B. W. asks: 1. What is meant by a sniffing valve? A. A blow-through valve attached to an engine for the purpose of expelling the air. 2. What is an equilibrium valve? A. It is a valve which can be moved without being affected by the pressure of the steam. 3. What is a gridiron valve? A. A cut-off slide valve with several ports. 4. What is multiple gearing? A. A train of gear wheels.

(13) R. O. B. asks: Is the odontograph applicable to internal epicycloids as well as to all other forms? I have tried in vain to adapt it to the above-named gearing; and if it can be applied to wheels gearing internally, I want the process and also the radii of a pair of wheels so gearing, so as to occupy a space $2\frac{1}{2} \times 16$ inches and $1\frac{1}{2}$ pitch. A. The odontograph can be used as you suggest. You will find an explanation of the method and a very good summary of the rules for proportioning wheels in the article on gearing in Appleton's "Dictionary."

(14) G. S. asks: How much will a brass tube expand in length when heated from the temperature of cold water (as it comes from hydrants) to that of boiling hot water, the tube being $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and the bore 1 inch, and the tube being 1 foot long? How long a tube would be required to expand $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length? A. It will expand about $\frac{1}{1000}$ of its original length. From this you can readily calculate the requisite length. 2. What hard metal expands most, and how long a tube of that metal expands $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length? A. Zinc expands $\frac{1}{1000}$ of its original length.

(15) C. F. asks: Is there a rule by which I can ascertain the power exerted by a pump, say with three plungers of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter and 4 inches stroke, driven at the rate of 50 strokes per minute by a 6 inch belt? A. It must be determined by experiment.

(16) C. N. says: 1. I am making an engine, to run a jeweler's lathe, of 1 inch bore and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches stroke. Will such a cylinder be large enough, and will $\frac{1}{8}$ inch be enough cushion? A. The dimensions will answer very well. 2. At what point should steam be cut off? A. Three fourths of the stroke.

(17) N. A. J. asks: How can I ascertain the number of acres in a triangular piece of land? My method is to add the three sides together and take half their sum. From this take the three sides severally, and multiply the half sum and the several remainders together and extract the square root of the product. Am I right? A. This method is correct.

(18) A. G. C. asks: In a plain slide valve engine, is it better to have an extra large steam chest? A. No.

(19) H. M. asks: What is the weight of 1 cubic inch lead, wrought iron, and cast iron, respectively? A. Average: Lead 0.410 lb., wrought iron 0.282 lb., cast iron 0.261 lb.

Can you give me a rule for finding the side of an inscribed hexagon, also of an inscribed octagon? A. Side of hexagon = radius of circumscribing circle. Side of octagon = $0.7654 \times$ radius.

What is meant by squaring the circle? A. Finding a square of the same area.

What is meant by the pitch of a propeller? A. See p. 240, vol. 31.

(20) H. H. asks: In what does indicated horse power of an engine differ from horse power? A. Indicated horse power is that due to the pressure of the steam, and includes the power required to overcome the friction of the engine. Effective horse power is the power available for useful work after deducting that consumed by prejudicial resistances.

(21) A. S. P. asks: 1. Does compressed air press equally in all directions? A. Yes. 2. What is the pressure per square inch of 1, 2, and 3 atmospheres respectively? A.

1 atmosphere, average, 14.685 lbs. per square inch.
 2 " " " 29.370 " " " "
 3 " " " 43.055 " " " "

What is the weight of a cubic foot of water? A. A cubic foot of distilled water of maximum density weighs 62.425 lbs.

(22) M. E. H. says: I have kept a gun in such good order that I have worn all the varnish off. It is now so bright that, when the sun shines on it, it is almost impossible to shoot well with it. How can I revarnish it? A. Try chloride of antimony, mixed with olive oil, heating the gun barrel slightly.

(23) G. & Co. ask: What is the rule for gaging casks? A. The rule varies considerably, according to the kind of cask. You will find a good summary of rules and methods in Haswell's "Mensuration." A general method is to ascertain the mean diameter by a number of measurements taken at close intervals, and then treat the cask as if it were a cylinder with this (mean) diameter.

(24) H. M. says: 1. Are half inch oak boards thick enough for the planking of a boat 20

feet long? A. Yes. 2. Would screws do in place of rivets, provided I countersink the head and putty them over? A. No. 3. Would an engine with a cylinder of 3 inches bore and 6 inches stroke, under 50 lbs. pressure of steam, be large enough to run the said boat? A. Yes. 4. What power would the above sized engine, running 300 revolutions per minute, give? A. Between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 horse power. 5. What sized screw would it take to run the above boat? A. One of 2 feet diameter and 3 feet pitch.

(25) G. E. P. asks: Who was Euclid? A. A celebrated geometer, who lived in Alexandria, about 300 B. C.

(26) W. M. W. asks: 1. Is the coating on enclosed pills all sugar? A. It is principally sugar. 2. What is mixed with sugar for coating pills? A. M. Garot recommends 10 parts gum tragacanth and 2 parts water. This is screened through fine linen, and mixed with 20 parts of sugar of milk. It is spread out in thin layers, and, when dry, pulverized. The pill is first dipped in water and then powdered over with the above compound. Pure gelatin is sometimes used for this purpose, also mixtures of gum, sugar, and starch. M. Calloud gives the following recipe, and the mixture is claimed by him to be less hygroscopic than any of the foregoing: Boll together 1 part flaxseed, 3 parts white sugar, and water sufficient to make a thick mucilage. Evaporate to dryness, pulverize, and dip the pill in on the point of a pin, to which is to be given a rotary motion.

(27) S. A. asks: Can a person be cured who is suffering from trichinae? A. Yes, if discovered in proper time, that is, before the trichinae have passed from the alimentary canal. 2. What are the symptoms? A. The symptoms are diarrhoea and abdominal pains, followed by muscular pains. "These symptoms occur within a few days after the ingestion of trichinous meat, that is, as soon as the young worms have been produced and become developed sufficiently to begin to migrate towards the muscles. It is not difficult to understand that the aggregated punctures of the mucous membrane by these parasites should occasion notable disturbance, when it is considered that the trichina which have been found to be contained in half a pound of meat may be sufficient to give birth in a few days to a brood numbering 30,000,000. It is stated that peritonitis may be produced by the passage of worms into the peritoneal cavity. The secondary symptoms relate to the muscles. Pains resembling those of muscular rheumatism are occasioned by the entrance of the trichinae in the muscles. Certain of the muscles become contracted, in some cases, and their extension occasions great suffering. Constitutional disturbance, more or less marked, accompanies both the primary and secondary symptoms. The general symptoms are not unlike those of typhoid fever, for which the disease is liable to be mistaken. Oedema of the face or lower extremities is apt to occur, and sometimes anasarca. Sweating is generally prominent as a symptom. Death takes place in a certain proportion of cases, after a protracted period of suffering and exhaustion, being often preceded by coma. The danger, *cateris paribus*, is proportionate to the abundance of trichinae generated within the alimentary canal. If the number be not sufficient to cause death from the amount of local and constitutional disturbance which they occasion, recovery takes place very slowly, the illness lasting for several weeks or months. The trichinae become encapsulated in the muscles, thereafter remaining quiescent, leaving the muscles more or less impaired. An accumulation of a larger number of cases than is at present practicable is necessary to furnish data for a complete clinical history of the disease, and for determining the relative proportion of deaths and recoveries." 3. Do not trichinae sometimes infest fowls? A. We do not remember such an occurrence. 4. How long can a person live with them in his body? A. That depends upon the constitution. 5. Can the disease be taken any way but through the stomach? A. Not that we are aware of.

(28) G. R. L. C. asks: 1. What kind of a curve is the tractrix? A. A tractrix is a transcendental curve in which the distance between every point of tangency and a fixed line, measured on the tangent, is the same. 2. Is there an equation for the tractrix? A. If x and y are rectangular coordinates, and h the constant, the equation, referred to the center, is $x = h \times \log \left(\frac{h + \sqrt{h^2 - y^2}}{y} \right) - \sqrt{h^2 - y^2}$.

(29) S. and D. ask: Were potatoes first found in Ireland or America? A. The common potato is a native of America, and was introduced into Europe by Sir Walter Raleigh.

(30) R. J. K. asks: I wish to prevent pine logs from fouling the water in wells. Has burning or charring ever been tried for such a purpose? A. Yes. The plan is frequently used, and is often efficacious.

(31) H. W. J. says: I have the following idea for a planer: On the sides of the lathe bed are bolted two arms, with a cross piece at the top, to which is attached the slide rest in a vertical (as compared with its usual) position, with the upper slide reversed; then a bed is made which moves on the lathe bed and is operated by a toggle arm connected at one end with the lower part of the head stock, the other end being connected with the traversing planer bed. Will this succeed? A. It will work very well. There is a somewhat similar planer in the market, which can be attached to a vise.

1. I wish to build a model engine of 2 inches stroke and 1 inch diameter. How would a boiler 1 foot high by 10 inches diameter, with 1 tube 3 inches in diameter, answer? A. The boiler is rather too small. 2. Of what thickness of metal should the boiler (of iron or copper) be? A. Make it $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch thick.

What is the plane line of a governor? A. The line joining the centers of the balls.

What books can you recommend on turning? A.

See "The Lathe and Its Uses," and Knight's "Mechanism and Construction."

(32) N. N. B. asks: Does the north pole rise and the south pole sink from December 21 to June 21 (thus giving us the seasons), and vice versa from June 21 to December 21? Cannot it be properly said that the earth has three motions, namely, its diurnal rotation, its annual revolution, and its polar inclination? A. The earth's equator is always inclined $23^{\circ} 17'$ to the plane of its path round the sun. To illustrate this, make two balls of wood or cork representing earth and sun. Put a wire axis through the earth at an angle of $23^{\circ} 17'$ into the pivot of a hanging weight, fastened to a stick which turns in a vertical plane around the sun. The action of gravity will then keep the earth's axis continually pointing in the same direction.

(33) F. G. S. asks: How can I make a white paint that cannot be softened by alcohol? A. Mix any powdered white pigment with water glass.

Is there an optical instrument in use by which I can measure distances at a glance? A. Take a spy glass, a wooden rod, and a fat spider. Toss the spider from hand to hand to make him spin. Wind the thread spirally on a forked stick or wire. Gum two parallel spider lines on a ring of metal or card board, and place this ring in the focus of the terrestrial eyepiece. Mark the space included between the spider lines on the rod, 100 feet distant. Then as the space on rod included between the spider lines at 100 feet is to the space included at an unknown distance, so is 100 feet to the distance required. Simpler methods are described in Wingate's "Manual of Rifle Practice."

(34) A. F.—The sun's amplitude at summer solstice depends upon the obliquity of the ecliptic, and not upon his distance, as you suppose.

(35) A. S. asks: Is there any means by which I can render canvas or heavy muslin airtight, so as to make a pair of bellows? A. Yes. See p. 379, vol. 30. In the end, leather would be much the cheapest.

(36) J. F. and others ask, in reference to S. E. S.'s query as to where he would arrive if he took a northeasterly course: Will you please explain how a man would arrive at the pole by traveling this course? It is our opinion that he would not, but would travel in a spiral direction, approaching nearer and nearer, but never reaching the pole. A. S. E. S. would come nearer to the pole than any of the north pole expeditions, because if he kept sailing he would be nearer than any conceivable distance; and unless we suppose his ship to be an inconceivably small one, some part of it would eventually reach the pole.

(37) P. M. C.—The moon's axis, during the eclipse, was very much inclined to the horizon, the latter being inclined to the equator, besides the inclination caused by the obliquity of the ecliptic and the inclination of the moon's orbit. These three causes, with the moon's motion from west to east, account for all correct observations.

(33) F. A. W. says, in reply to S. C. H., who asks as to the philosophical reason that a circular saw cuts better at a certain speed than it does if run faster: Circular saws of over 40 or 50 inches in diameter are or should be hammered to run at a certain speed. This is more important when the speed is as high as from 700 or 800 revolutions per minute. If a saw is so hammered as to do good work at 300 or 400 revolutions per minute, it will not do as good work at 500, for the reason that the high speed expands the outside or rim, causing it to dish, or "hop aound," as sawyers sometimes express it. In such cases, and when it is inconvenient to reduce the speed, it will be necessary to guide the saw out of the log so as to cause the central part to rub against the log enough to heat it slightly, thus expanding the portion that needs hammering. An expert sawyer can in this way manage indifferently well, though at an expense of considerably more power. A largesaw, to run well at high speed, should be hammered in the center part until it is slightly dishing, or as it is variously expressed, "loose at the eye," or "rim-bound." It may be loose at the eye when it is the reverse of rim-bound, namely, too open at the rim, which is the most frequent trouble with such saws, and they all become so eventually from use, and then they should be re-hammered. I would not advise any one that has not had previous experience to undertake to hammer one, for the operation is a very delicate one, and requires considerable skill. A. We have known of several cases in which large saws seemed to do equally well under considerable changes of velocity, and we imagine that saws are quite as often run at different speeds as those recommended by the makers. Within limits, however, our correspondent's views are quite correct.

MINERALS, ETC.—Specimens have been received from the following correspondents, and examined, with the results stated:

A. J. R.—It is impossible to say whether a stone is lithographic, or suitable for printing from, from a small fragment.—H. C. T.—We have examined your queer specimen, but must request, before answering your questions, to know whether it is a manufactured or a natural product. How and where was it found? Is it genuine? If natural, has anything been done to alter it?—J. H. A.—The specimens contain iron pyrites in quartz.—We have received two specimens in an envelope, without any letter. No. 1 is magnetic pyrites or pyrrhotine, containing 40 per cent of sulphur and 60 per cent of iron. No. 2 is a mixture of small scales of black mica, carbonate of lime, and a rock composed of siliceous iron, and magnesia.

J. C. C. asks: If it is high water at the Battery, New York city, at noon, how high will the tide be at Albany?—A. B. asks: What is the source of the disagreeable odor of corduroy, when that fabric becomes wet from any cause?—J. H. M. asks: How is the oil finished upon melodeons and sewing machines, and what kind of oil is used?

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Editor of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN acknowledges, with much pleasure, the receipt of original papers and contributions upon the following subjects:

On the Crystallization of Carbon. By C. T.
On Hydrophobia. By C. R.
On a Suicidal Scorpion. By J. B. T.
On the National Currency. By —.
On Fruits and Electricity. By N. B.
On a Withdrawn Charge. By C. G. F.
On Gas Machines. By W. H. E.
On Smoke Consumption. By O. F. M.

Also enquiries and answers from the following:

S. L. W.—J. B. M.—H. V. M.—T. A. J.—A. J. N.—W. H. N.—H. T.—J. T. N.

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents whose inquiries fail to appear should repeat them. If not then published, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines them. The address of the writer should always be given.

Enquiries relating to patents, or to the patentability of inventions, assignments, etc., will not be published here. All such questions, when initials only are given, are thrown into the wastebasket, as it would fill half of our paper to print them all; but we generally take pleasure in answering briefly by mail, if the writer's address is given.

Hundreds of enquiries analogous to the following are sent: "Who sells the best garden seeds? Where can tobacco paper for fumigating greenhouses be obtained? Are there any agencies for imported raw silk in New York city? Who publishes the best work on electroplating? Where book on mechanical drawing is considered the best?" All such personal enquiries are printed, as will be observed, in the column of "Business and Personal," which is specially set apart for that purpose, subject to the charge mentioned at the head of that column. Almost any desired information can in this way be expeditiously obtained.

[OFFICIAL.]

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

FOR WHICH

Letters Patent of the United States were

Granted in the Week ending

December 22, 1874,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[Those marked (r) are reissued patents.]

Alkalies, putting up caustic, A. K. Lee	158,094
Alkalies, restoring spent, A. S. Lyman	157,919
Auger, C. F. King	158,090
Auger, earth, A. S. Ballard (r)	6,189
Auger, earth, J. B. Christian	158,092
Auger hole, earth, W. H. Beach	158,016
Baggiler, J. Cline	157,986
Bale tie, J. N. Smith	157,940
Bale tie, cotton, R. M. Taylor	158,145
Bath apparatus, medicated, J. L. & P. A. Brémond	158,022
Bee hive, M. Davis	158,045
Bellringer, automatic, T. M. Brintnall	157,905
Bellows, M. Doyle	157,910
Beltting, making rubber, T. J. Mayall	157,921
Beverage or summer drink, C. Neumann	157,964
Bill file, E. J. Smith	157,938
Bird cage, J. Maxheimer	157,996
Blacking, harness liquid, J. A. Sefton	157,996
Blind stop, F. G. Boggs	157,983
Boiler incrustation compound, J. J. Lavo	157,917
Bollegusset connection, J. T. Connelly	158,037
Boiler water gauge, C. C. Redmond	158,002
Bolter rod cutter, A. W. Gray	157,990
Bolts, machine for heading, A. Alexander	157,911
Bookcloth, cutting, J. W. Jones	157,964
Books with metal, stitching, E. D. Averell	158,013
Boot and shoe, J. Lanham	158,093
Boot heel, L. W. Buxton	157,965
Boot uppers and soles, uniting, McKay & Fairfield	158,107
Bottle cleaner, J. R. Smith	158,141
Brass duster, J. T. McNally (r)	6,183
Brush, tooth, M. A. R. Lowd	158,099
Buckle, M. C. Swift	157,943
Burner, Argand gas, S. G. Dare	158,044
Burnishing machine, N. F. Mathewson	157,967
Butterworker, J. A. J., & J. E. Lindbeck	158,097
Butterworker, A. Whitaker	158,159
Can holder, preserve, J. H. Winslow	158,161
Can sewing machine, J. H. Perkins	158,119
Caraxles, cooling, W. E. Tinney	158,151
Car coupling, N. H. Beal	158,017
Car coupling, L. C. Eaton	158,053
Car coupling, E. N. Gifford	158,059
Car coupling, W. H. Gruver	158,064
Car coupling, H. Luther	158,100
Car coupling, C. E. McCormick	157,999
Car coupling, J. W. Meikle	158,106
Car coupling, C. Surplice	158,144
Car coupling, J. H. Wieleh	157,980
Car gear, railway, O. McC. Chamberlain	158,031
Car ventilator, F. N. Clark	158,034
Car wheel, lubricating, S. & S. L. Hall	158,067
Car wheel oil box, Callahan & Gallagher	157,907
Cars, lifting railroad, B. F. Phelps	158,118
Carding machine teeth, L. M. Pichard	157,925
Carriage, child's, H. J. Shill	157,977
Cartridge case, B. B. Hotchkiss	157,916
Caster stand, H. Schade	157,985
Casting, pattern for, S. Reynolds	158,127
Cesspool, H. W. Atwater	157,957
Chair, reclining, E. Collins (r)	6,180
Chuck, W. F. Toothaker	158,007
Churn dasher, R. M. Case	158,029
Cigar box, C. A. Steckle	158,137
Cigars, aging, J. L. Boone	158,021
Cleasorbuckle, belt, B. F. Pike	157,995
Cleave, G. Sbelton	157,976
Cleave, L. E. Smith	158,140
Clock movement, R. Hitchcock	158,084
Cloth measure, H. Carlon	158,127
Clothes washer, E. Crowell	158,039
Coaming machine, G. M. Read	158,123
Coffin handle, D. Leonard	158,096
Collar, fur, A. D. Levy	157,966
Column, iron, J. M. Cornell	157,908
Compounds, anti-corrosive, A. K. Lee	158,095
Cop tubes, making, J. F. Wilkinson	157,963
Corn bucker, D. Babbitt	157,982

Cradle and crib, W. A. Weant	157,919
Cullinary vessel, J. H. & N. Weare	158,135
Cultivator and seeder, M. Green	158,062
Curry comb, M. Sweet	157,942
Jigger, potato, H. D. Herrington	157,991
Distilling spirits, R. C. Brooks	158,024
Dress elevator, A. B. Smith (r)	6,184
Drill, steam rock, J. C. Gilthens	158,060
Drill, portable rock, T. E. Mendenhall	157,969
Drill, rock, E. S. Winchester	158,009
Drill, well, Morgan & Kelly	158,113
Electrotype mold, S. P. Knight	157,965
Engine, automatic pumping, H. S. Mazim	158,105
Engine, rotary, A. C. Gallahue	158,058
Engine, self-propelling, N. S. Bean	157,904
Engine slide valve, steam, R. Goss	158,061
Engine spark extinguisher, Smith & Helmke	158,006
Fabrica, creasing, J. Shepard	158,135
Feathers, shaving, G. M. Richmond	158,128
Fence, iron, Devoe & Walker	158,047
Filter, Hanck & Voegelé	158,076
Fire arm, magazine, Sheekler & Gregory	158,004
Fire escape, J. B. Gathright	157,912
Fire escape, Strong & Peterson	157,978
Gaseller, drop light, F. C. Hamilton	158,068
Gate, farm, L. & J. C. Merrill	158,156
Gearing, shifting, M. Kolp	158,093
Generator, steam, A. L. Bogart	158,019
Girder and column, J. Manes	157,930
Glove, E. B. Whitney	158,008
Grain header, D. T. Gillis	157,961
Graining, transfer sheet for, F. W. Littell	158,098
Hame tug, J. W. Denton	158,046
Hammer, bush, H. H. Harvey	158,074
Harness liquid blacking, J. A. Sefton	157,936
Harness saddle joint stay, W. Elgabroadt	157,911
Harrow, D. T. Gillis	157,960
Harrow and planter, W. J. Covington	158,040
Harvester finger bar, R. Dutton	158,051
Harvester platform, S. Luce	157,918
Harvesting machine, J. F. Seiberling	157,937
Hat bodies, stretching, E. Hechler	158,079
Hat finishing machine, J. W. Corey	158,038
Hay loader, C. W. Williams	157,954
Heater, steam, W. H. Slock	158,136
Heating apparatus, G. H. Perkins	158,117
Hogcatching implement, Stafford & Sherman	158,142
Hog ring blank, J. J. Hutson (r)	6,187
Hoop dressing machine, P. Flanders	157,959
Horse power, J. G. Taylor	158,146
Horse power, endless chain, D. S. Heebner et al.	158,078
Inkstand, S. Hall	158,066
Iron bars, etc., straightening, J. S. Seaman	158,133
Key fastener, S. T. Proudman	158,121
Knife, progressive, F. E. Hoffman	158,085
Knife sharpener, J. B. Bollinger	158,020
Knife, shoe, M. A. Tyler	157,948
Knife, table, A. Grimm	158,063
Knife, table, J. O. Ely (r)	6,182
Lamp, R. Marsh	158,103
Lamp lighter, head, S. M. Davies (r)	6,181
Lamp wicking, E. Waite	157,949
Lantern chimney, Richards & Bohonan	157,928
Lantern, street, J. M. Bruce	157,906
Latch, locking, H. Rogers	158,130
Lead into bars, forming molten, W. A. L. Kirk	157,994
Lead, cutting and lifting, W. A. L. Kirk	157,993
Leather dressing machine, O. C. Smith	157,939
Life preserver, A. Schuster	158,132
Lime and cement, hardening, F. W. Colby	158,036
Links, forming and welding, A. Alexander	158,010
Lock for furniture, etc., H. Willard	158,160
Locomotive and car, H. Handyside	158,070
Locomotive watering pipe, Dodge & Palmer	158,049
Loom, Crompton & Wyman	157,909
Lubricator, Hoffmann & Belsinger	157,992
Map drawer and exhibitor, J. A. Knight	157,996
Mat wooden, W. Groat (r)	6,186
Mill, grape, W. McCucas	157,923
Mop head, C. B. & J. J. Clark	158,033
Motion, converting, Tisdale & Allen	157,946
Motion, transmitting, G. H. Cliff	158,035
Mower, lawn, L. J. Youngs	158,162
Nut lock washer, G. C. Thomas	158,149
Ore washer, W. B. Frue	158,057
Organ treadle, W. Murphy	158,000
Oven, baking, J. M. Case	158,028
Oyster refrigerator, J. C. Jones	158,089
Padlock, etc., D. K. Miller	158,111
Paper barrel machine, C. V. Mottram	157,970
Paper box, E. D. F. Shelton	158,134
Paper, compound for gluing, C. E. Sawyer	157,934
Paper barrel head, C. V. Mottram	157,971
Paper prints, transferring, E. Velthen	158,154
Pawl and ratchet, E. M. Krum	157,997
Pegging machine, E. P. Richardson	157,929
Photographic picture holder, A. Thomas	157,945
Photometer, electrical, W. W. Goodwin	157,962
Picture exhibitor, S. Guerrin	158,065
Pin, safety, L. E. Andrews	157,931
Pipe coupling, G. Westinghouse, Jr.	157,951
Plant shelves, hanger for, W. Higgs	158,062
Planter, handcorn, G. W. Robinson	157,129
Plow, T. Canty	157,026
Plow, gang, R. Hance	158,069
Plow, wheel, W. Dickie	157,048
Plug, tamping, G. A. Kelchert, Jr.	158,126
Printer's quoin, W. Quail	158,001
Printing, photo-mechanical, J. Albert (r)	6,188
Propeller, vibrating, C. P. Macowitzky	158,101
Propeller, vibrating, C. Theobald	158,148
Pump, force, J. C. and S. Chambers	158,080
Pump, submerged rotary, T. C. Workman	157,966
Pump valve, R. J. Gould	157,963
Pumps, valve for chain, B. G. H. Hathaway	158,075
Purifier, middlings, D. H. Buckwalter	158,025
Purifier, middlings, C. Custer	157,958
Railway switch, B. T. Dutton	158,052
Railway switch, Murchison & Haney	158,114
Railways, station ticket for, C. W. Harvey	158,072
Rake, horse, F. G. Butler	157,984
Reaming apparatus, D. W. Siple	158,138
Rock, bit for boring, G. M. Read	158,124
Roller and harrow combined, W. W. Anderson	158,012
Rolling springs, machine for, Powell & Munger	157,927
Roofing compound, H. W. Johns (r)	6,190, 6,191
Roofs, metallic tile for, J. Ravoux	158,123
Rope rack and measurer, C. Hutchings	158,068
Rope, wire, C. G. Roebbing	157,931
Satchel and traveling bag handle, G. Havell	158,077
Saw mill, A. R. Ehlers (r)	6,185
Sawing machine, W. W. Duffield	157,989
Sawing machine, scroll, I. Hird	158,083
Sawing machine, wood, Filley & Wood	158,056
Scissors, sewing machine, S. L. Fawcett	158,064
Seeder and cultivator, W. A. Van Brunt	158,152
Seeders, teeth for, C. P. Hewett	159,081
Separator, grain, W. F. Humphrey	158,122
Separator, oil, H. Moore	157,111
Sewing cabinet, S. R. Ruckel	157,733
Sewing machine treadle, E. Falro	158,111
Sewing machine tuck creaser, Sampson & Muther	157,985

Shingle machine, W. A. Durrin	158,050
Shingling bracket, J. M. and C. T. Schramm	158,131
Shovel indicator, W. R. Rightor	157,930
Shoe fastening, R. A. Pruett	157,972
Shoe knife, M. A. Tyler	157,948
Shot, machine for rolling, W. A. L. Kirk	157,995
Sifter, ash, J. Michel	158,110
Sinks, etc., strainer for, S. Porter	158,120
Slat adjuster, blind, G. T. B. Hosley	158,087
Spinning frame, J. M. Stone	158,143
Stamp, rotary chromatic band, C. E. Baldwin	158,014
Starb pollah for linen, M. A. Marney	158,104
Steering wheels, brake for, P. M. Kinseila	158,091
Stills, manufacture of oil, C. Cunningham	158,042
Stove, G. W. Walker	157,950
Stove, cooking, E. O. Brinckerhoff	158,023
Stovepipe elbow, S. Smith	158,005
Stove-lining composition, L. R. Witherell	157,965
Stoves, platform for, W. Westlake (r)	6,192
Stud for wearing apparel, D. Heaton	157,914
Stump extractor, B. W. Thurman	158,150
Table, ironing, J. and E. K. Dearbaugh	158,988
Table ware, covered, H. Vasseur	158,153
Telegraph paper, perforator for, C. Wheatstone	158,158
Telegraph wire, pipe-encased, S. R. Honey	158,086
Telegraph receiving instrument, C. Wheatstone	158,156
Telegraph transmitter, automatic, C. Wheatstone	158,157
Thill coupling, O. E. Mallory	158,102
Thill coupling, C. J. Sanford	157,974
Tobacco, treating, J. Barton, Jr.	158,015
Toy puzzle box, P. McGurk	158,106
Trap, animal, G. Richardson	157,973
Trunk fastener, J. J. Cowell	158,041
Trunk, portable, M. Fletcher	158,056
Tumbling rod covers, J. Heuermann	158,080
Type writer, H. R. M. J. Hansen	158,071
Umbrella runner, J. J. Higgins	157,915
Vacuum pan, J. Colwell	157,987
Valve, check and throttle, Smith & Osborn	157,941
Vehicle axle box, P. B. Cunningham	158,043
Vehicle lubricating axle, G. H. Rugg	158,033
Vehiclespring, W. B. Whitney	157,962
Ventilator, car, F. N. Clark	158,034
Violin, J. H. Payne	158,116
Violins, chin rest for, White & Watson (r)	6,193
Wagon running gear, J. Skeen	158,139
Wagon top, adjustable, E. M. Saunders	157,975
Washing machine, T. E. McDonald	157,922
Watch case lifting spring, C. L. Thierly	157,914
Watch center pinion, D. Gruen	157,913
Water wheel, turbine, O. N. and A. J. Angell (r)	6,178
Water wheel, turbine, S. T. Teachout	157,147
Weir trimmer, M. A. Tyler	157,947
Window screen, L. S. Thompson (r)	6,179
Wrench, D. McFarland	157,969
Yokes, tongue ring for neck, S. D. Bingham	158,018

EXTENSIONS GRANTED.

30,910.—PAPER FOLDER.—C. Chambers.	
30,925.—BUTTON HOLE CUTTER.—F. C. Leypoldt.	
30,929.—TOBACCO CUTTER.—W. H. Pease.	
30,931.—SPINNING FRAME CYLINDER.—R. Plews.	
30,961.—MOWING MACHINE.—J. Ten Brook. Two patents.	
30,971.—WATER WHEEL.—N. Johnson.	