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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1886.

Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as Air machines, fatal effects of alcohol, Bayonets and cavalry swords, etc., with corresponding page numbers.

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For the Week Ending March 20, 1886. Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Table listing sections I through IX, including Chemistry, Engineering and Mechanics, Technology, Art and Architecture, Astronomy, Natural History, Physiology, and Miscellaneous, with page numbers.

TOO MUCH IDLE CAPITAL.

There are in the city of New York forty-five national banks with a capital aggregating forty-five million four hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The statement made by these institutions on the first of March showed that there was due to their depositors two hundred and nine million seventy-one dollars. Add to this enormous sum the millions in the vaults of the banks organized under our State laws, and with private bankers, as well as the great sums held by our Trust and Insurance companies, and it is evident that there is a great deal too much unemployed capital lying idle in this city.

If this large sum and the surplus funds in our other monetary institutions throughout the country could be put into circulation, it would give an impetus to all kinds of business, and bring about that condition of prosperity for which the public have been looking for the past few years, and are now realizing only in part.

PROPOSED AMERICAN EXHIBITION IN 1889.

It was in the year 1789 that the Constitutional Government of the United States was established, with Washington as its Chief Executive. The inauguration of the first President was celebrated in the city of New York. As this ceremony ushered in what will probably always be regarded as the greatest century vouchsafed to the nation, it has seemed highly fitting that its centennial should be commemorated by suitable observances in the same city which saw the birth of the new republic.

The joint resolution passed by the Tennessee Legislature provides that such an exhibition shall be recommended; that its importance be commended to the President, with the request that he bring it to the attention of Congress; that the people of Tennessee be urged to assist the movement, and take steps to prepare a suitable State exhibit; and finally, that the Governor be requested to forward a copy of the resolution to the President and to the Governors of the several States and Territories.

Fluid Extract of Camellia.

Within the space of a few months, Dr. E. R. Squibb has called the attention of the medical profession to the fluid extract of camellia, or tea, which has been thus proposed to take the place of guarana and coca. He states that the testimony in regard to the effect of tea, coffee, Paraguay tea, and kola nuts is all of a similar character to that given with regard to coca.

It is even more curious to find that for centuries past a plant called coca, yielding a different principle, has been in use for a similar purpose, the effects of which, says Dr. Squibb, differ but little from caffeine.

Comparing the power of these drugs in their tendency to counteract sleep, or promote wakefulness, the author found that three grains of caffeine were equal to three fluid drachms of the extract of coca, and to seventy minims of the fluid extract of camellia.

Latterly, Dr. J. B. Andrews has reported on a long series of experiments with fluid extract of camellia and hydrobromate of hyosine in the treatment of insane patients. With the first of these drugs he noticed a

remarkable uniformity of action, the pulse being decreased from ten to twenty-four beats under the influence of various doses, while the force and tension were invariably increased. The full influence of the remedy was experienced in half an hour to one hour after administration.

New Use for Cold Air Machines.

Most persons have heard of the process for facilitating the drilling of artesian wells through strata of quicksand by freezing the quicksand with liquids brought to a very low temperature, and circulated through pipes introduced through the well tubing. La Revue Industrielle gives an account of an ingenious modification of this process, put in practice by a Swedish contractor for his own benefit, which deserves to be kept in mind for future occasions.

Fatal Effects of Alcohol.

According to Dr. Richardson, alcohol cuts down by disease, in England and Wales alone, 1,000 persons a week. What, adds the Doctor, if any other cause of mortality did the same? What if 1,000 persons per week died, in the same area, from the bite of the rabid dog or the snake, by the swallowing of arsenic, opium, or prussic acid?

Frozen Fishes.

On Nov. 18 a fishmonger of Paris, M. Heydendare, received from Gonda (the center of fisheries in the region about Rotterdam) a large consignment of fishes packed and preserved in ice. They could not have been caught later than the 16th, and were probably caught on the 15th.