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(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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NEW YORK ELECTRICAL SUBWAYS.

The Electrical Subway Commission, having decided that the best plan for putting the telegraph, telephone, and electric light wires underground in the city of New York consisted in a conduit of asphalt concrete, has now awarded the contract for its construction to the Consolidated Telegraph and Electrical Subway Company.

In no case are they to exceed the cost of keeping up the wires as at present, or ten per cent upon the capital invested in constructing and maintaining the conduits.

The work of constructing the conduits will be begun, probably, about the middle of August, and will proceed, it is stated, at the rate of 500 feet per day.

It is hardly probable, however, that the work of putting the wires underground will be permitted to proceed without the interference of an unusually large number of injunctions and lawsuits.

SHIP TRANSIT ACROSS THE ISTHMUS.

It is a fact so curious as to be worthy of remark that the canal projects of Panama and Nicaragua have, almost simultaneously, met with an ill-fortune which can scarcely help to weaken the confidence of the public in their practicability.

Whatever may have prompted the committee to withhold its sanction to the new loan after a consideration of three months, it must be apparent even to the dullest intellect that the road to success in this enterprise is not clear, and the methods by which its promoters hope to attain it by no means certain.

As to the project for a lifting lock canal at Nicaragua, which has long found favor among American engineers, the recent earthquake in the vicinity of its route sweeps away in a moment a principal argument put forward in favor of its selection.

It is within the range of probability that De Lesseps may yet discover a means of raising another \$120,000,000 among his countrymen, whose faith in his ability is so abiding that even the grossest errors of calculation, the most evident misstatement of well known facts, and ideas as to financial management that would startle the most reckless stock-jobber, may not be relied upon to shake it.

Even if another \$120,000,000 should be put into the Panama Canal project, there is abundant evidence to prove that it would be insufficient. Eminent engineers, who have carefully examined the work already done and what remains, have estimated that the completion of such a canal at this point will require a gross expenditure of about \$500,000,000.

It is reported that M. De Lesseps recently told his countrymen that should they fail to support the Panama enterprise, it would be turned over to the Americans, who would eagerly put their dollars into it.

Those who are aware of the apathy with which the Panama scheme was received in this country at its inception will be slow to believe that now, when its earlier promises have proved so visionary, capital will be found here ready for investment in Panama Canal shares.

projects. Ever since President Cleveland spoke in favor of the ship railway, in his message to Congress, the current of opinion has turned in that direction, and now that the route of the proposed Nicaragua Canal has proved to lie within the earthquake belt, Eads' project is thought to be the only practicable one.

BASEBALL.

Probably there has never been an out of door amusement which has taken the whole country so by storm as baseball playing has done this season.

The skill exhibited by the experienced players has attracted crowds of people from long distances to witness match games, and the enthusiasm manifested on the field shows that it is not a mock interest or fashion that has brought them together, but that it is the skill of the players that attracts such fabulous numbers.

The knack of a skillful "pitcher," who sends his ball so that it diverges from a straight line after leaving his hand, and curves in any direction at the will of the pitcher, so as to deceive the "batter," is an attainment which but a comparatively few have reached, but it is a science which every amateur player would like to acquire.

In another column Mr. Chadwick, who probably understands the game of baseball as well as any writer on the subject, explains his theory of the curved ball, which so many have watched with interest and so few have attempted to explain.

A New Ocean Telegraph Circuit.

At present, when telegraphic messages are sent from the United States to Brazil, they must first be cabled to Europe, and then sent from there to their destination. This is not only a very roundabout method, but also very expensive, each word costing \$2.06 for its transmission.

The Wreck of the Oregon.

Six divers are now constantly at work on the Oregon, steam pumps being used to supply them with air. Each man remains under water from a half hour to an hour at a time. By the end of that period, the pressure becomes difficult to bear.