

THE SUABIAN HARVEST FESTIVAL.

The Suabian harvest festivals take place in America during the latter part of September, and are similar to those held by the Suabians in Germany. Suabia, or the kingdom of Wurtemberg, lies in the southwest angle of the German empire and is a great agricultural country. About 100 years ago the king of Wurtemberg ordered a day in each year to be set aside for these festivals, and the 26th of September was chosen. Vegetables and fruits from all parts of the country are brought in and made into columns and arches, the different designs and colors made of the vegetables and fruits giving them a beautiful appearance. They also have numerous games, such as the hare hunt, climbing the pole, sack races, etc.

The Suabians in this country have formed themselves into mutual benefit societies, and also hold these festivals in the various parks in the large cities. Our sketches illustrate the Suabian harvest monuments as erected in Caledonia Park, Jersey City, N. J., in September last. The vegetable monuments erected were from 30 to 40 feet in height. A pole, about 8 inches in diameter, runs from the ground to the top, and around this is built a circular shaft. The base of the monument is about 14 feet square, and is made into four steps, tapering up to the top, where a box, 6 feet square, made of heavy material is fastened. The pole running through the circular shaft projects down below the base about 10 feet. An 8 inch hole running through the top and bottom of the box, through the base to the ground, through which the pole runs, keeps the shaft in position. The shaft is 2 feet in diameter at the top and 4 feet in diameter at the bottom, and the entire column is made of wood. The designs are first laid out with chalk, and, beginning at the top, the vegetables are nailed on, covering up the woodwork from view, and giving the appearance of a solid vegetable column. Six, eight, and ten penny nails are used to the number of three kegs, and twenty-five barrels of vegetables and fruits will barely cover one of these monuments, melons, pumpkins, and the larger vegetables being placed about the steps or base of the column. The designs and colors are beautiful to look at. The time consumed in nailing on the vegetables is about three days.

These festivals last three or four days, there being each day numerous games, such as climbing the pole, the schoolmaster, sack races, and a hare hunt. There is an old story in connection with the hare hunt, which runs as follows: A simple Swab went out into the woods one day, and, being very much frightened by a strange animal, he ran back and told a great story to his six companions about the animal he had seen. He described it as being something terrible, and greatly frightened them all. They finally decided to go out and see what it was, each one urging the other to go first. One of the number happened to have a big pair of boots on, and the others induced him to go first, providing him with a big spear. The animal, when found and killed, proved to be only a hare.

These monuments cost between \$400 and \$500 each. After the festival is over the column is put up at auction to the highest bidder, but the nails spoil most of the fruit, and the receipts from such a sale are usually only from \$8 to \$10.

To remove rust stains from nickel plate, grease the rust stains with oil, and after a few days rub thoroughly with a cloth moistened with ammonia. If any spots still remain, remove them with dilute hydrochloric acid and polish with tripoli.

The "Faure" Patent in Germany.

The following extract is taken from the Berlin *Borsen Courier* of September 11: A case which for some time past has aroused much interest in the electrical world came up for decision before the Nullity Department of the Imperial Patent Office. The Joint Stock Accumulator Company, of Hagen, in Westphalia, is the holder of a license in respect of the patent granted in 1881 to Camille Faure for the production of accumulators. The extraordinary success attained by this industry, both in this country and abroad, led last year to the conversion of the original company into a large joint stock undertaking, in which, among others, the Allegemeine Elektricitats Gesellschaft and the firm of Siemens & Halske became interested to a very considerable extent. On the other hand, this very success led, especially in Germany, to attempts at evasion of the rights patented by Faure, and the Accumulator Company found themselves obliged to defend actions both in the civil and

of Berlin, previous to the announcement of Faure's patent, was shown by the counsel for the defendants, engineer and patent attorney Pieper, of Berlin, to be in each separate instance inaccurate. In like manner, the alternative plea advanced by the plaintiffs, to the effect that the only point which could be held to be protected by the patent was a layer supplied by means of a brush in connection with partition walls, was shown to be quite unsupported; it was, on the contrary, proved that neither the specification nor the claims of the patent contained anything which was not capable of practical realization, proof being advanced in support of this view to the effect that over twenty millions worth of accumulators constructed on Faure's system are at this moment employed for purposes of lighting and transport, and attention being drawn to the fact that the only motive which could be suggested for the desire of the petitioners to annul the patent must be to their wish to share in the advantages secured by it. Indeed, the circumstance that they

follow Faure's above mentioned specification by applying the layer for the collection of electricity on the electrodes, proves conclusively that Faure had given clear and precise instructions for the production of accumulators. The fact that the form of the conductor employed for the reception of the active electricity was a new one did not in any way justify the petitioners in the previous application of such a layer of active material to plates other than those first of all employed by Faure in the case of such active layers. The Imperial Patent Office admitted the force of these arguments by granting the demand of defendant's counsel that the appeal lodged by the petitioners should be disallowed, thereby declaring the validity of Faure's 1881 patent to be unconditional.

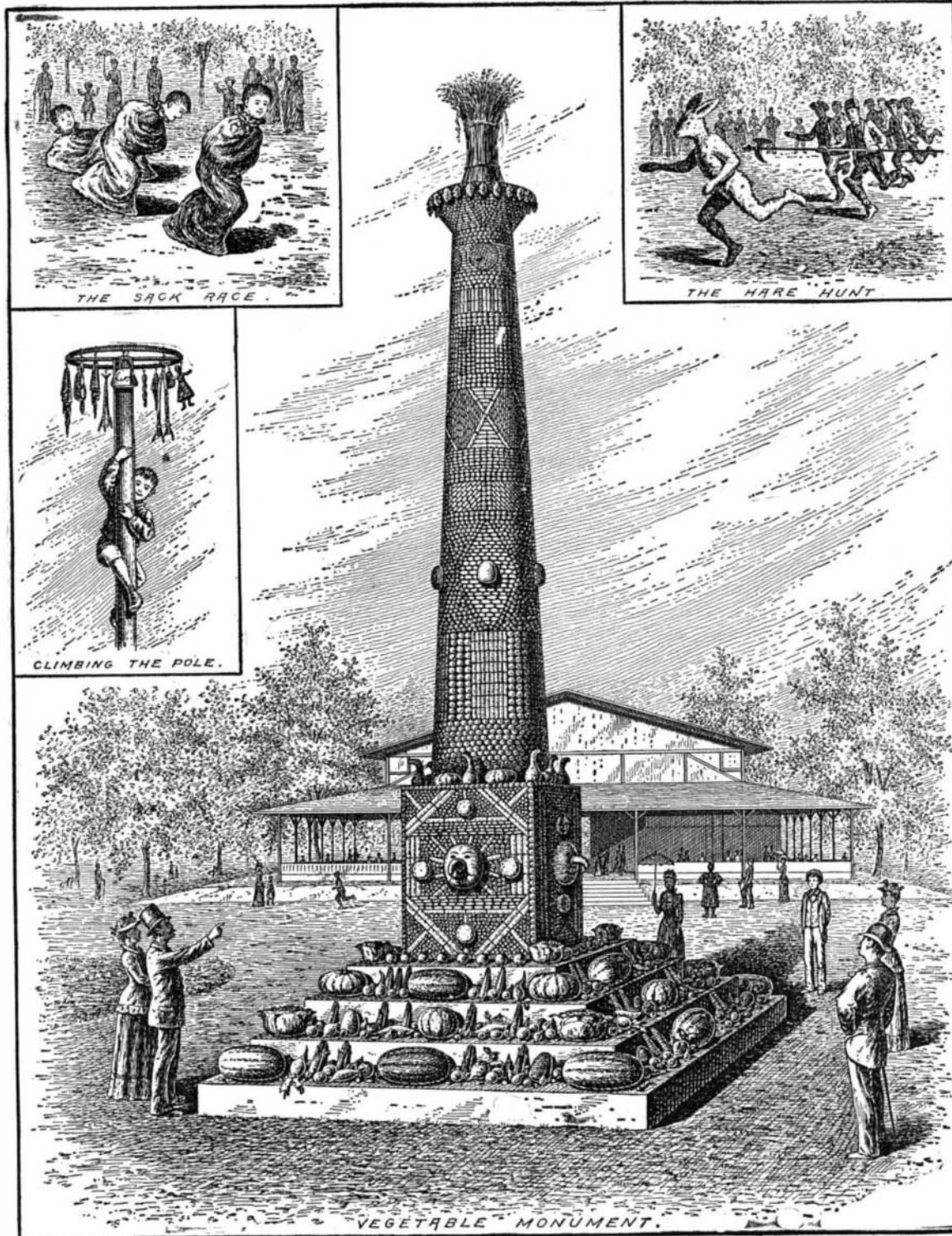
Stopping Horses by Electricity.

A successful trial of stopping a runaway team was witnessed by a large crowd on Michigan Avenue, Chicago, recently. The experiment was undertaken by Mr. Halson, of the Halson Electric Harness and Supply Company, of Chicago. After placing a set of his patent harness on a span of high-spirited horses, he hitched them to a new top buggy and connected the lines to wires running from under the seat. He then took a seat in the buggy and gave the horses two slashing cuts with the whip. They immediately started down the street with every appearance of a genuine runaway. Suddenly both animals reared in the air, danced frantically for a moment, throwing their

heads viciously, and came to a dead standstill. Mr. Halson then jumped out and described the manner in which the horses were stopped. By means of a small battery and coil in the carriage, a system of wiring through the harness, and the pressure of a conveniently located button, a mild shock is given the horses from the bit. The strange sensation induces them to back away from a seeming attack in front, and thereby causes them to immediately stop. The shock is not of sufficient strength to injure the animal in the least, but it is enough to check any horse.—*Electricity.*

New Cunard Steamers.

Referring to the progress of Clyde shipbuilders, *The Engineer*, London, states that the most important of recent orders is that reported to have been booked by the Fairfield Company, Govan, for the construction of two new steamers for the Cunard Company, to run between New York and Liverpool. It is stated these boats are to be of 12,000 tons capacity, speed at sea to be guaranteed at 22 knots per hour. Such vessels, on a spurt, could probably make 24 knots.



THE SUABIAN HARVEST FESTIVAL—MONUMENT OF VEGETABLES.

criminal courts against the firms of the Berlin Accumulator Company, Correns & Co., De Khotinsky, Gelnhausen, and Gottfried Hagen, of Cologne on Rhine. These firms in turn combined together with a view to obtaining the right to employ Faure's patent without charge, and instituted a suit for the nullification of the rights secured by Faure's patent. This suit came on for decision before the Imperial Patent Office. All motions made by the petitioners for annulment, in order to obtain a postponement of the case, the institution of experiments, hearing of witnesses both in this country and abroad, were disallowed by the Imperial Patent Office, it being decided that sufficient material was already before the court on which to give a decision. The assertion advanced by counsel for the petitioner, Dr. Haberlain, patent attorney of Berlin, namely, that accumulators similar to those patented by Faure were already perfectly familiar to experts in consequence of published writings of Plante, Kirchhoff, De la Rive and Brush, and from a combination of publications of the published writings of Prof. Stockhardt and Dr. List, and the experiments of Dr. Aron,