

groggy affairs, but they fulfill all the present conditions, and that's all the most exacting of the Creede 400 demand at this chrysalis stage of the young metropolis' development. On the evening of February 22 a grand ball was given by the *elite* of the town.

All the ladies were dressed in handsome ball costumes, and the *decolleté* gown was there in force. The men—or a great many of them—wore the conventional swallowtail broadcloth.

Living in Creede is very expensive. A meal costs \$1. Beer costs 15 cents a glass, or 80 and 40 cents a bottle. Whisky that will not kill cannot be got for less than 25 cents a drink, and the bartender is careful that your libation is not too large at that. Horses or burros to ride over the mountains are hired at 50 and 25 cents an hour. The streets are so terribly sloppy that one dares not walk around much, and a ride to any part of the city will cost you 50 cents. Cabmen have driven over from Pueblo, a distance of twenty miles, with their rigs and are reaping a richer harvest than the prospectors. Labor is high. Any man who can drive a nail can command \$4 a day, and in some extreme cases they are paid \$1 an hour. Boss carpenters get \$8 a day and are talking of raising the scale of wages. Laundry costs three times as much as in St. Louis, and no Chinamen are allowed in camp.

Hotels are numerous, there being nearly 100. It does not, however, take much for a hotel, as a plain board shanty, 16 ft. square, with a blanket for a door, is dignified with the name "Palace Hotel." Until a short time ago the hotels were similar to this one, although many of them were made larger. In all, the sleeping room held from twenty to sixty cots, the use of which was granted the tenderfoot at \$1.50 each a night, with blankets furnished, or without blankets only 50 cents. The Pullman company has also entered the hotel business, leaving on the side track from three to ten sleepers, in which the anxious speculator could find a bed on payment of \$1, provided he could catch the conductor in time to pay in his money and secure his ticket.

A shocking state of sanitation prevails. Water for washing, cooking, and drinking is obtained from Willow Creek, which is also a sewer and dumping place for all the refuse of the camp. An epidemic of dysentery has just broken out. It is claimed the trouble comes from the arsenic and antimony from the ores poisoning the water. There are 200 persons in town afflicted to-night, and many cases are quite serious.

The peculiar cough which catches hold of nearly everybody who comes to Creede is attributed to the arsenic in the air.

Speculation in town lots still continues. The latest report is that the United States land commissioner has ordered a discontinuance of all land sales. Governor Routt and other State officers assisted at the sale on February 25. The claim holders intimidated outsiders and had things pretty much their own way. Women were among the bidders.

A lot was put up, the minimum price being \$50. Some one said, "A woman occupies it;" then the crowd shouted, "Give it to her." One man bid \$50. The crowd groaned and hissed, and the man bid \$1, announcing that it was for the woman, and that no man had the temerity to raise the bid. The lot was knocked down to the woman amid a storm of cheers.

A lot occupied by a poor woman was bid in by a liberal man and given to her. This established a bad precedent. A corner lot on block 17 sold for \$1,100. The next lot was claimed for a "lady." One or two people began to bid, but the crowd hissed them down. The lot was knocked down for her at \$160. It was stated that she made her first appearance only the day before on the grounds.

A few minutes later a woman got up on the Squatters' Committee stand and made her own showing. Mrs. Barry was her name. She said she had been begging for two days and was living on the lot. The woman wore an astrakhan fur jacket and her fingers resembled a jeweler's showcase. First she was cheered by a clique, and then a roar went up to give her the lot. She got it. It was certainly surprising to know that there was so many "lady squatters" in Creede. No one was aware that there were half so many in town.

The highest price paid was for a corner, which sold for \$2,700.

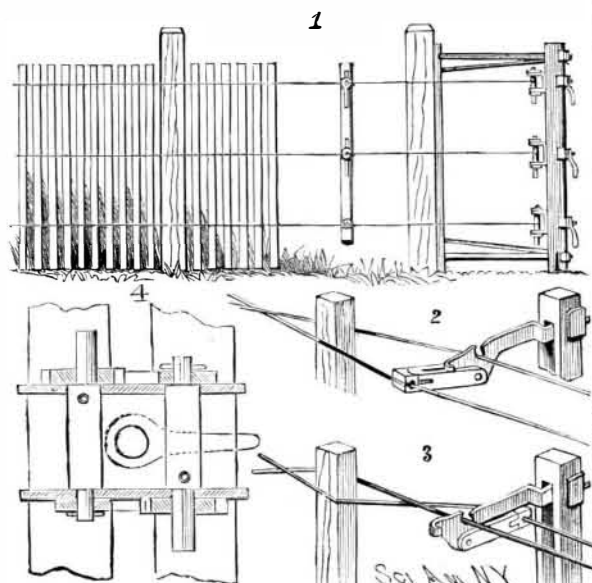
In all \$225,000 was realized. An attempt was made to rob the State officials of the money. But a mob of 1,000 men, armed to the teeth, immediately surrounded the governor's train and guarded it overnight.

Mrs. Marie Love is among the women who are making thousands at Creede. Almost any day, when the sun's rays are playing hide and seek with the snow crystals on the mountains and cliffs, Mrs. Love can be seen astride a burro riding over the hills in search of leads. She has staked off five claims, some of which old prospectors declare will make her the silver queen. Woe to the man who would dare jump one of her claims, for the camp would rise up *en masse* and tear him limb from limb.

Mrs. Love is a finely educated woman, of majestic

bearing and business-like deportment. She is of magnificent physical development and her face is of a decidedly classic mould. She dresses in severely modest colors, her large hat with its great black plume being the only conspicuous feature of her attire. She is splendidly posted on all current topics, and discusses politics and politicians with the intelligence and originality of a veteran statesman. She is closely related to some of the most distinguished people of Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania, and as soon as she can convert her newly acquired mining property into anything like its cash value, she intends to purchase an elegant home in Washington, so that her children may enjoy the advantages of the social life of the national capital.

The law and order element of the population of



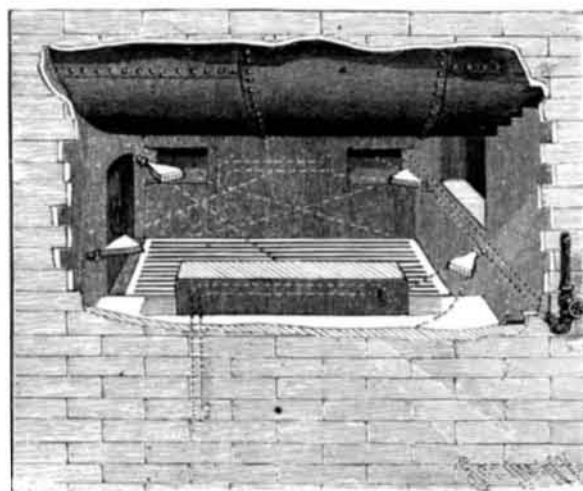
MASON'S FENCE MACHINE.

Creede is growing stronger daily. At a 'citizens' meeting held the other night resolutions were passed providing for the public safety. New strikes of silver are being opened daily.

Word comes from Cripple Creek that that camp is enjoying much the same scenes as Creede. There, too, gamblers of all sorts are reaping a rich harvest. Neither has it a government. A vigilance committee runs the town.

The foregoing is from the *N. Y. Press* and the following we find in the *Electrical World*: Many have read the announcement which has been made that "Creede, Colo., has electric lights," but few are aware of the phenomenal time occupied in the construction of the plant, due to that element of vitality and grit which is most noticeable in Western people.

The idea of equipping the plant was conceived at noon, Feb. 1, by John W. Flinham, general manager of the Denver Consolidated Electric Light Company. Before the day was over, the Creede Electric Light and Power Company was organized and incorporated, supplies were ordered and placed aboard a special train of cars at Denver that had been chartered from the Denver & Rio Grande Railway Company, and everything necessary for the complete equipment of a model electric light plant, for arc and incandescent lighting, by midnight of the same day was on its way to the modern mining camp. Creede was in sight Tuesday night, Feb. 2, and by daybreak the following morning



HUGHES' FURNACE.

a gang of laborers was put to work breaking ground and getting the foundations of the power house ready. By this time the town was alive with interest in the work and pool sellers were offering odds on the time to be occupied in completing the plant. The work progressed night and day and the electric current was turned on at 11:15 P. M. Saturday, Feb. 6. The actual time occupied in completing the plant, erecting the buildings and placing the machinery in position, was from Feb. 3, 7 A. M., to Feb. 6, 11:15 P. M., less than a week after the machinery was purchased in Denver,

over 300 miles away, and this young town was given the latest luxury of civilization. Arc and incandescent lamps illuminate gorge and mountain side, and the hum of the dynamo recalls the mind of the seeker after riches to an occurrence without a parallel in electrical history.

The magnitude of the undertaking will be understood from the following inventory of the plant: Two boilers, 100 horse power each; one Armington & Sims high speed engine, 100 horse power; one pump; one dynamo of 30 arc lights; one 400 incandescent light dynamo and two 50-foot iron smokestacks.

Since the house was completed another dynamo of 60 arc light capacity has been added, and the company will increase the capacity for incandescent lamps to 1,000 as quickly as the machinery can be set, and the capacity of the plant will be increased as quickly as there is any demand for more light or power. The value of the plant is said to be from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

AN IMPROVED FENCE MACHINE.

The illustration represents an apparatus designed to facilitate the building of picket fences, in which the pickets are held between strands of wire secured to suitable supporting posts, one man readily working the apparatus to quickly and nicely build a fence. The improvement forms the subject of a patent issued to Mr. William H. Mason, of East Monroe, Ohio. Fig. 1 shows the apparatus connected with a partially built fence, Figs. 2 and 3 showing details of the wire twister, and Fig. 4 being a sectional view of the tension regulator. The latter consists of a frame carrying rollers, to which the ends of the wires are attached, one end of each roller being adapted to be turned by a crank, and the rollers being carried in pairs by U-shaped clips. Each roller has at one end a ratchet wheel, and at the opposite end a pawl, the pawl of one roller engaging the ratchet wheel of the opposite roller, the two pawls serving to prevent the rollers from turning in the wrong direction. When the tension regulator is secured in position opposite to one of the end posts of the fence, the free ends of the wires are secured to the rollers, and these are turned by cranks to tighten the wires to any desired extent. The twister has projecting main arms, with recesses in their upper edges to serve as hooks to receive strands of wire, and on each main arm is pivoted another arm, having a joint recessed to receive a strand of wire. One strand of each wire is placed in the recess of the main arm, and the opposite strand in the recess of the pivoted arm, and after the twister is once adjusted it need not be taken from the wires until the fence is built, as it may be pushed along in front of the pickets as fast as they are placed in position. Fig. 2 shows the twister in position to force two wires apart, to allow a picket to be placed, and Fig. 3 shows the wires crossed by the twister after the picket has been inserted. Should the wires become too taut after the insertion of many pickets, the tension may be slackened by loosening the nuts on the bolts to which the roller-supporting clips are pivoted.

AN IMPROVED FURNACE.

The furnace construction of which a section is shown in the illustration is designated by the inventor as a steam blower smoke consumer, and is designed for use in connection with steam boilers, puddling and heating furnaces, etc., or for any similar purpose where steam pressure is available. It has been patented by Mr. Christian B. Hughes. In the front end of the fire box is the usual inlet door, and at the rear is the usual bridge wall, while in the side walls are arranged longitudinally extending chambers or channels opening at their ends into the fire box above the grate. In the front wall of the fire box are nozzles for the discharge of superheated steam obliquely above the grate about in line with the longitudinal chambers, there being in the rear of the fire box a similar set of nozzles below the upper end of the bridge wall and in line with the rear openings of the channels. In the wall between the longitudinal channels and the fire box are air pipes or ducts leading from the ash pit into the channels, to supply the latter with heated fresh air. The amount of superheated steam passing to the nozzles is regulated by a valve, the jets from the front nozzles driving the burning gases, smoke, etc., rearwardly, while the jets from the rear nozzles force the smoke, etc., into the rear openings of the longitudinal channels, where they are mixed with hot air from the ash pit, the mixture again entering the front end of the fire box to be passed over the burning fuel. The smoke and gases not thus consumed are again driven through the side channels, to be forced again over the burning fuel by the jets from the front nozzles, the continuous operation insuring a complete combustion of all the gases.

Further information relative to this improvement may be obtained of the Niles Electric Light and Power Company, Niles, Ohio.

BELTING having joints cemented only is as good as if the belt were formed of solid leather from end to end. It lasts much longer, and drives better than when cut up with sewing.