Notes of the Legislature

Reports Presented and the New Bills That Are to Come Up.

Motions and Questions of Which Notice Is Given by Members.

The twenty-eighth annual report of the Asylum for the Insane, which was presented to the assembly on Thursday by the Hon. J. D. Prentice, tells the sad story of a slight increase in the number of patients, the 226 at the beginning of the year having been increased by some 17 at its end. This increase consisted, strangely enough, of female patients, the males numbering 184 at both the beginning and the end of the term. In 1899 a total of 101 patients were admitted, all from this province, excepting five, who had been received from the Yukon territory under an arrangement with the Dominion authorities. In that same period 61 patients were discharged, 19 died and two escaped, the latter being, however, happily so far improved as to be on the point of obtaining their discharges.

Among the more important subjects touched upon in the report is the question of overcrowding and the means taken to relieve the position. The accumulation of patients who are simply feeble-minded and could well and safely be cared for at home has for a long time been a leading factor in the case. From time to time of late years some of these have been returned to their friends, but it was not until last year that any large step was taken in that direction. Then, however, arrangements were made by which 22 patients were removed, 13 going to Great Britain, 7 to Eastern Canada and 2 to the United States, and happily the transfers were effected with the utmost success.

A similar arrangement is also discussed in the report concerning the 25 Chinese patients, many of whom have been inmates for a long time, three for quite a quarter of a century. In April the Chinese reformer, Hwang Yee Wei, visited the asylum and the matter was then brought to his attention, but as yet nothing has been done.

The report of the births, deaths and marriages for the years 1898 and 1899 were also presented by the honorable the provincial secretary. From this it appears that the births in the province during these years were 2,038 and 1,755 respectively; the deaths 1,340 and 1,415, and the marriages 965 and 872, while in the year 1897 the figures were 1,331, 1,013 and 629. In both years Vancouver headed the birth lists with 479 and 474 babies respectively, while the storks brought to Victoria 384 and 362 in the same years. Throughout the whole province the decrease between these years is a corresponding one, with the exception of the Kootenays, where a slight increase is found in the addition of seven little bits of humanity.

In 1898 Kootenay held first place for marriages, some 254 having been registered, but in 1899 Vancouver took the lead, with 252. In these two years Victoria was credited with 219 and 235 respectively. The year 1898 showed an increase of 296 marriages over 1897, but in 1899 marrying was not so popular and the returns fell off by 93.

The first government measure which was introduced on Thursday by Attorney-General Eberts is an act to amend the Small Debts Court act. The changes are very similar to those suggested last year, and provide, among other things, for garnisheeing before judgment, and the exemption of wages and salary from garnishment. It also prohibits judges of the Small Debts court from acting as agents for the collection of debts.

On Monday the attorney-general will ask leave to introduce the following bills: An act to amend the Evidence act, one to amend the law regarding trustees and their liability and an act regarding the appointment of notaries public.

The honorable the minister of finance will also introduce a bill to amend the New Westminster Relief act, 1899.

At an early date it is expected that a Liquor License bill will be brought down; also a bill amending the Companies' act.

The amendment of the Mining act will not be at once proceeded with. As was intimated in the Queen's speech, it is proposed to appoint a commission to draft a bill after due consideration and investigation of this vitally important subject. This will obviate the "tinkering process" to which this matter is sometimes liable and which has been so much resented by the mining interests generally. This is not the first time a commission has treated this matter, as the old Mining act of 1892 was the result of one issued under the Robson administration.

Fourteen private bills will come before the committee this session. Of these at least a dozen came up last winter, when they shared the fate of all that session's bills. Nine of these are railway matters, being the following: Vancouver & Lulu Island railway, Vancouver & New Westminster railway, Rock Bay & Salmon River railway, Lake Bennett railway, Kamloops & Atlin railway, Pacific & Omineca railway, Grand Forks & Kettle River railway and the Vancouver-Northern & Yukon railway.

That of the Grand Forks & Kettle River road is a new application and asks for a charter to build a railway to the boundary and so bring the ores of Republic camp up to the smelter at Grand Forks.

Other private bills concern the city of Vancouver, the synod of the Anglican diocese of New Westminster, the Western Telegraph & Telephone Company and the Crow's Nest Power & Light Company.

Last year some 16 bills were presented, the committee reporting favorably upon 14 of them.

The following resolutions will be submitted by Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken on Monday:

"That, in the opinion of this house, it is desirable that steps be taken to obtain the removal of the Indians from the Songhees reserve."

"That, in the opinion of this house, all government contracts should contain such conditions as will prevent abuses which may arise from the sub-letting of such contracts, and that every effort should be made to secure the payment of such wages as are generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out; and it is hereby resolved that the work to which the foregoing policy shall apply includes not only work undertaken by the government itself, but also all works aided by a grant of provincial public funds, and that the aforesaid policy shall be forthwith applied to every department of the public service and to all parties now performing services for the government."

Mr. W. W. B. McInnes purposes on Tuesday next to introduce an act relating to labor. On the same day he will also ask the following questions:

Is it the intention of the government to appoint a policeman in the northern portion of North Nanaimo district? If so, when, and at what salary?

Will the road bosses for North Nanaimo district be appointed by the government this year, or will they be elected by the electors of that district, as was done last year?

Is the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company subject to the provisions of the British Columbia Railway act?

SOLDIERS' RELICS.

An Army Chaplain Describes the Curious Trifles on Which Soldiers Put Sentimental Value.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

What tales the Red Cross men and the nurses will have to tell when it is all over of the relics our soldiers cherished! "Sister Clare, I am dying. Be sure I am buried with this." What is it that the dying soldier wishes to be buried with? Often the strangest thing imaginable. Sometimes a curious stone with three holes in it picked up in a country walk among the chalk pits or the Roman camp three miles off. It has been strung on a string and carried round the neck "for luck." Occasionally it is a lucky sixpence or token or farthing. Sometimes it is an old knife—the blades all broken. Nevertheless it was given to the owner by Harry—old Harry—twenty years ago, and Harry was his ideal of school-boy pluck, school-boy honor, school-boy daredevilry. "He is married and has several youngsters, and often looks a bit serious-like; but when I said good-bye, Lord, his eyes brightened up and he gave me such a grip, I can almost feel it now, and he said, "If it wasn't for the missus and the youngsters, Tom, I should be by your side." That's what he said, Sister Clare; be sure that old knife goes down with me. He gave it me, your see, when we were boys together. He brought it from London for me."

Sometimes the relic—often indeed—is a New Testament, with the leaves turned out here and there and passages marked by fond mothers who woke up in the night and spent their vigils in sight and tears and prayers. It is not often a father's or brother's gift. A woman's hand, a woman's heart must have had something to do with it. We have known of many a little bag of rose leaves—all dust—no fragrance left—hanging round a soldier's neck.

"Give us a rose, Cissy." Cissy has plucked one, carelessly, perhaps, and given it or tossed it to her school-boy lover. How happy she made him! How he gloated over it that night! With what secrecy did he get a needle and thread and a bit of cloth that night to make a locolus, a shrine for the gift, and wear it round his neck forever.

"And now, well, I wasn't half good enough for her. That's the fact. We drifted apart. She married Jem Willett, the carpenter, a steady chap who read books, and I—well, I walked thirty miles on her wedding day from Katherington to Portsmouth, and took the Queen's shilling. And here I am; but when you lay me out put back this bag. Thank you, Sister. What a wonderfully real thing your religion must be, to lead you to come and wait on us as you do. I can't make it out, there. God bless and reward you. Good-bye!"

But of all the strange relics, charms, amulets, that soldiers (and sailors) carry about with them, the commonest is a lock of hair. The sailor often tattoos on his breast, or gets the old hand to do it for him, the likeness of the girl he left behind him, surrounded by hearts and anchors and crosses. Marvellous works of art and invention. The soldier is not often tattooed, but he carries, either in a silken bag or tied up with a silken thread, the lock of hair that she cut off for him on the eve of their parting. There it hangs now over his still palpitating heart, though the doctor, as he counts the pulse, knows that it will not throb much longer. He puts his hand over the cardiac region. "What's this?" 'Tis the silken bag. "Oh, yes, I see." He passes on He is too busy to sigh, though he, the doctor, has his love story, too. Man of science as he is, he knows that you don't discover the soul by dissection.

Yes; only a woman's hair. Sometimes as dark as a gypsy's or Jewess' sometimes as bright and blonde as that of a Nuremberg market girl. As rich as Rebecca's or as brilliant as Marguerite's when "Faust played with her tresses in the garden and they scintillated with the beams of the sun he praised. Poor, pitiful scoundrel, with his fine sentiment and contemptible flesh!

It would be a curious inquiry how many locks of hair—woman's hair—have been buried in their soldier lover's coffins. Who first began it? What man, what nation? Why hair? In the magnificent collection of Roman remains at York among the choicest antiquities there is a superb knot of auburn (dark, rich, reddish) hair cut off the head of a Roman lady, perhaps some British Princess. Some British Esther, raised to be the wife of a Roman Pro-Consul. It is only a maiden of perhaps fifteen or sixteen years of age. It was nearly perfect when discovered in a stone coffin, lined with another of lead and filled with gypsum. In the knot of hair there are two fine pins of polished jet. No other English collection can show so beautiful a relic. How many similar relics of British ladies or village maidens are lying in the roughly made graves that strew the banks of the Modder or the Tugela, the rugged sides of the kopjes, or the grass-covered mounds on the South African veldt?

SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

Resolutions Passed at the Recent Baptist Convention.

A resolution was passed regarding social questions, and all pastors were urged to constantly confirm the scriptural teaching regarding relationships which should exist between all grades of the community.

The report of the treasurer and secretary of the women's mission showed the finances in a healthy condition. The thanks for courtesies extended were passed to the Olivet Baptist church, the minister of justice and the C. P. R. Pastor McDonald delivered a lecture on "Reminiscenses of Pioneer Work in the Northwest," and Dr. Green, D. D., of Philadelphia, gave the closing address of the convention on "The Effect of the Gospel of Christ When Preached in Faith."

"I'd like a job, sir, as waiter," said the applicant.

"You have dan experience in waiting I suppose?" queried the restaurant proprietor.

"Indeed, I have."

"For how long?"

"Why, sir. I've taken meals at a restaurant for twelve years."

Among the Legislators

Will the Members for Cassiar Take Their Seats Tomorrow.

Mr. McInnes' Labor Bill a Mystery—The Fisheries Trouble.

The Cassiar seat still monopolized the interest of the members of the legislature yesterday. Of course, there were not many in the city, as a considerable number are spending the Sundays of this warm spell out of town, and of those who did cross the Bay, the ministers were so hard at work as to remain practically invisible. Among the others, however, the situation was pretty well threshed out, and all sorts of conjectures were the result. Little credence was given to the rumor that an attempt might be made to take the seat, although both Messrs. Clifford and Stables had received their certificates from Returning Officer Garvin. This certificate is not, however, a necessity, but one like it, with the writ of election attached, makes the return that should be made to the provincial secretary; and from doing this Mr. Garvin has been prevented by the injunction. This return being produced by the provincial secretary, the member named therein is sworn in, and thereupon is eligible to take a seat in the chamber. The certificate runs as follows:

"I do hereby certify that, in obedience to the annexed writ of election to me directed, I have caused an election to take place within the electoral district of ——, and that the electors of the said district have chosen —— to represent the said district in the legislative assembly.

"Dated this —— day of ——.

A. B.,
Returning Officer."

Messrs. Brown and Oliver had an interview with Attorney-General Eberts yesterday morning, with the view of urging upon the government a plan for effecting or attempting to effect a settlement of the present fishery troubles on the Fraser. It is said that the plan included the sending over of Mr. Ralph Smith as a commissioner of the provincial government, and that Mr. Smith has expressed his willingness to accept such a mission. It has been repeatedly suggested at Vancouver that Mr. Smith be asked to mediate between the contending parties, and his fitness for the undertaking was fairly acknowledged by those on either side. What steps the government may take in the premises are not yet made public, but the ministers are fully alive to the tremendous issues at stake, and will do all in their power to assist in the rescue of this great industry.

Last evening Hon. Messrs. Wells and Eberts were waited upon at the Driard by a committee from the riding of Chilliwack, who were introduced and supported in their petitions by Mr. Charles W. Munro, the member for that constituency. The committee, which consisted of Reeve A. C. Wells and Messrs. George R. Ashwell and Justinian Pelly, had come down to urge the need of the construction of a wagon road up the valley of the Chilliwack river in the direction of the boundary, which is necessary for the development of the Mount Baker mines on the Canadian side. The matter was gone into very thoroughly, and will be considered on Monday next by the full executive council.

Inquiry was made among several of the members yesterday for particulars of the bill regarding labor, notice of which has been given by Mr. W. W. B. McInnes. But all in vain. Ralph Smith, the foremost champion of labor interests in the province, if not in all of Canada, nothing could be learned from, which, however, may be all of a piece with the strained relations that have for some time past existed between these two representatives of the Nanaimos. The situation is rendered all the more interesting by the fact that Mr. Smith himself expects to introduce a bill at an early date upon this same topic.

The reply to the speech, the motion for which will open the debate in the assembly to-morrow, will, it is said, be moved by R. G. Tatlow, the third member for Vancouver, and seconded by W. H. Hayward, junior member for Esquimalt.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS.

Work Accomplished Through the Efforts of Ald. Hall.

Credit is due Ald. Hall, chairman of the park committee, for having secured a number of little improvements at Victoria's pleasure resort, which add considerably to the comfort of visitors.

The band stand is now located in a much better site than formerly, it being sheltered from the southeast winds by the barrier of trees which surround it. It has also been repainted, adding much to its appearance.

An extra supply of pipes have been run into the lakes, which obviates the necessity of having the fire department attend to fill them periodically during the summer months. The smaller lake has been thoroughly cleaned of the dead leaves and rubbish.

The two rustic bridges have been replaced by two more artistic ones erected from designs prepared by City Assessor Northcott. A large number of new seats have also been placed at convenient positions around the park and all the signs have been repainted.

Much needed repairs have been made to the bear-pit and the children's swings. A new fence is to be erected at the foot of Catherine street and steps are to be constructed at the cliff to afford easy access to the beach. Altogether, the park is in a very satisfactory condition, thanks to the unremitting attention of Ald. Hall.

BANK CLEARINGS.

New York, July 20.—Weekly bank clearings for the Dominion are:

Montreal—$14,629,051; decrease, 6.5 per cent. Toronto—$9,410,020; increase, 3.3 per cent. Winnipeg—$2,358,231; increase, 25.6 per cent. Halifax—$1,564,969; increase, 8.5 per cent. Hamilton—$700,333; increase, .3 per cent. St. John, N.B.—$620,300; decrease 24.9 per cent. Vancouver—$1,049,710; increase, 29.3 per cent. Victoria—$755,664.

For the Park.—The park commissioners of Vancouver have presented to Beacon Hill park a pair of golden pheasants, which have made glad the heart of Ald. John Hall, chairman of the park committee.

NEW MEMORY SYSTEM.

Micah Miggles Mnemonics Worked Out Perfectly One Time.

From the Smart Set.

My friend, Micah Miggles, has a system of mnemonics all his own. When he wishes to remember one word he thinks of another that may sound quite different, but that bears some relation of ideas to the word he seeks to retain. Thus, if you told him to buy a pair of socks he would immediately think of the word "sockdolager," and, ten to one, when he arrived at the store the word would have turned into doxology, and he would come back with a hymn book. So his system has its faults, but Miggles swears by it, and once in a while he evolves a triumph in his line.

Last week his wife asked him to stop at Munnimaker's and buy a few things for her. He immediately made a list so that he should not forget. I was with him when he drew out this list at Munnimaker's.

"Hello!" said he, "what's all this royal family about? I can't think whether it was books or kitchen utensils that Mrs. Mibggles asked me to get." This after reading the list.

"What's on the list?" I asked.

"Why, I made it out in my system, you know, and I can't think of the key to it. I've got to have a starter always. It says 'King Henry V., one Prince of Wales, one Duke of York, Queen Victoria and Marquis of Lorne, too.'"

"Why, it's historical works or photographs," said I, but I was really quite in the dark.

"No," said Miggles. "Just help me to think. I'm sure it wasn't books or pictures. Itthink it was dry goods."

Quite accidentally I put him on the track. If I hadn't, in spite of his system he would have gone home without a bundle, and as he is a commuter, that would have been a little irregular.

"What is king?" said I, half to myself.

"Ha!" said Miggles; "thanks, Cotton is king — old expression. Cotton —'King Henry V' equals five yards of cotton."

"Good!" said I. "But what in thunder is 'one Prince of Wales?'"

"Prince — prince — prints — one yard of prints!" And Miggles laughed with joy.

"There is more in that system than I thought," said I. "But what can you make out of 'one Duke of York?'"

"Duke — duke—duke. Duke—duchess. Ha! one yard duchesse lace."

"You're a wonder!" said I. "But what can Queen Victoria and Marquis of Lorne, too, mean?"

Like a shot he answered: "Two yards of Victoria—lawn! Hooray!"

—CHARLES B. LOOMIS.

HANDLING A GUN.

An Expert Gives Some Good Advice On Carelessness.

From Forest and Stream.

In picking up your gun from lying flat, standing against anything, from a companion or a boat, do not take hold of the muzzle and drag it toward you; take hold of it by the forestock and barrel if you are only using one hand; if two, in the regular way grasp it when you go to shoot. In carrying your gun do not keep the muzzle directly behind you; throw the butt to the right or left, whichever shoulder you are carrying it on. This will bring the muzzle toward the opposite shoulder, thus rendering it easy to carry, as it will be resting on your neck and shoulder instead of on the small part of your shoulder, and with the muzzle upward will also lighten it a little.

I think there are more men shot with their own guns by taking them from a boat than in any other way. When you run your boat or canoe to the bank your gun is likely to be in the bow, which I think is the best place for it. Take hold of it by the forestock and step out. Put it in a safe place where you are sure it will not fall down. Then draw up your boat or do anything else you have to do; but do not let your gun stay in the boat until you have shouldered your pack and then catch hold of the muzzle, drag it up over the gunwale, hook the hammers and have it explode. It is likely to blow out your brains.

Are free from all crude and irritating matter Concentrated medicine only, Carter's Little Liver Pills. Very small: very easy to take; no pain; no griping, no purging. Try them.

IT'S NICE TO BE A LAWYER.

"If I were to give you an orange," said Judge Foote, of Topeka, to D. O. McCray, "I would simply say, "I give you the orange," but should the transaction be entrusted to a lawyer to put in writing he would adopt this form: "I hereby give, grant, and convey to you all my interest, right, title, and advantage of and in said orange, together with its rind, skin, juice, pulp, and pits, and all right and advantages therein, with full power to bite, suck, or otherwise eat the same, or give away, with or without the rind, skin, juice, pulp, or pits, anything herein-before, or in any other deed or deeds, instruments of any nature or kind whatsoever to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.—New York Tribune.

ABSOLUTE SECURITY.

Genuine

Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Must Bear Signature of

Brent Good

See Fac-Simile Wrapper Below.

Very small and as easy to take as sugar.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. FOR HEADACHE. FOR DIZZINESS. FOR BILIOUSNESS. FOR TORPID LIVER. FOR CONSTIPATION. FOR SALLOW SKIN. FOR THE COMPLEXION

GENUINE MUST HAVE SIGNATURE.

Price 25 Cents. Purely Vegetable. Brent Good

CURE SICK HEADACHE.

A Parisian House Kitchen

French Air of Elegance and Neatness In Its Furnishings.

Many of the Utensils Are For Show and Not Often Used.

The Paris kitchen is really a pantry with windows, and with most of the modern appliances for furnishing heat, light, water, and drainage. Most of them, but not all. There is no hot water, for instance. The "water-back," as far as I have seen, is an unknown quantity in France; possibly they have them in some of the very new apartments. You fill the kettle with water and stand it on the gas stove, and in two minutes it is boiling. This is no labor whatever, for the whole operation is performed without lifting your feet from the tiled floor. You stand exactly in the middle of the kitchen, where the tiles are most worn, and by reaching over to the northeast corner you may stand the kettle in the stone sink and turn on the cold water. With another motion of the arms the kettle is transferred to the gas stove, in the northwest corner. All the coffee arrangements are on the shelf behind you, southerly. Under the shelf is the table, on which you operate.

Above the shelf the wall is a mass of glittering copper. From thirty to sixty copper utensils are hung upon hooks, and very handsome they look, with their background of blue and white tiles. They are a necessary appendage to every Parisian kitchen, except the very cheapest. The daughter, when she is married, is presented with a "battery," as it is called, of copper cooking implements; she could not be properly married without it. It may be a new battery she gets, or it may be the one presented to mamma when she was married, and in twenty or twenty-five years it goes on to the next generation. There are tiny little measuring cups not much bigger than a cognac glass, and so on and up and up to the immense thing that you take at first to be an ice-cream-freezer, and then believe to be a copper cradle, and find eventually to be a machine for roasting a big joint of meat before the fire.

These coppers are all for use if you choose, but you notice in a few days that Therese never uses them. She uses, instead, the half dozen graniteware implements that have been provided. Like most other Parisian cooks, she admires the coppers and lets them hang undisturbed. Every time that one is used it must be scoured, or the beauty of the whole battery is marred. And they must all be taken down and scoured once a week, whether they are used or not.

In a small apartment there is a gas stove only, or possibly an oil stove, which is cheaper. In the kitchen that I know best in Paris there are three stoves, the big coal range serving for a table to hold the other two. This big range, which is much like our American ranges, I never saw lighted. There stands upon it a smaller range made principally of sheet iron, in which either coal or charcoal may be burned. This was used on occasions. Beside it stands the gas stove, which is the one commonly used. Over the little gas stove has an air of Parisian elegance, because it is finished with brass edgings and ornaments instead of the nickel-plate we are accustomed to at home.

Such a kitchen can produce a grand banquet for fifty persons or a petit dejeuner for three or four with equal facility. Therese, you will notice, keeps a hot fire in the small range without difficulty; when you try it yourself the thing smokes and sputters, but will not burn. You will also notice that she has a place for everything, and keeps everything in its place. The place for the salt shaker, for instance, is on the floor under the table, well up in the corner. The pepper box is behind the sink. The spice box has a neat in the dark cubby by the gas meter. This orderly system is very convenient when you come to understand it.

Indeed, Therese has many excellent points. You may lie in bed as late as you choose, and she will not disturb you. She may not make the beds till evening, but they are sure to be ready when needed. If she had not been late so many mornings, how should I know all these mysteries about making the early coffee- A poor French girl must have her little amusements. And her tears as well. Many times she told me, as I thought, that her brother was working down in the Catacombs. From her pointing straight down at the floor I came to believe that he was working directly beneath my house. At last I understood that he was dead and buried. A mort, M'sier, a mort! Her early morning coffees atoned for all her faults and tears. There was a pretty yard to the place, with a fountain and flowers, and some springy iron chairs and very light Frenchy little iron tables. She spread a napkin over one of the tables and served the coffee by the fountain, which she started a-playing. Private Parisian fountains are always dry, except when specially wanted, because Parisian water cost so much a litre, or quart. The early coffee by the fountain, in a cup as big as a bowl; the cream from the cream shop a few doors away; the early sounds of Paris coming in over the walls; the happy knowledge that the landlord pays the water rate; Le Petit Journal moist and inky, with last week's news from Naples by way of London; do these things comport with the statement that earth is but a wilderness?

We are so accustomed to thinking of the Parisians as living always in apartments that to speak of "my house in Paris" sounds almost like talking of "my steam yacht," or "my special train." Yet there is nothing unusual about having a whole house in Paris. Moderate rental is a comparative term, but I mean by it something in the neighborhood of $100 a month. If you are economically inclined, you can have one for $75, ready to step into at a moments notice. Such a house usually has a well-kept yard, laid out with gravel walks and flower beds, a shady arbor, and a fountain, and some rustic seats, and often it is completely shut in by high walls, with only the front showing from the street. To rent a whole house furnished the process is precisely the same as for renting an apartment.

Houses of about this monthly value may be had in all parts of Paris outside of the centres, but the neighborhood that I know best is Passy, for it was there I had "my house in Paris." If you go to the exposition you will certainly visit the Trocadero palace, and the Trocadero is in Passy. Cross any of the bridges from the Champ de Mars, and you are in Passy. It is as much a part of the city as our old Greenwich Village, and no further from the Grand Opera House, I should think, than Greenwich Village is from the city hall.

If you are drawn toward Passy, coachy will drive you to the Rond Point de Longchamps, which is only two or three blocks from the Arc de Tromphe. There is one side of the open circle you will see the big grocery concern of my esteemed grocer friend, M. Dugas. Mme. Dugas, who makes change at the desk, no doubt can say butter by this time, for her English studies had led her as far as bread when I last saw her. Parisian grocers of the Dugas type are so extremely obliging that one carries away pleasant recollections of them.

However, if you stand in the Rond Point de Longchamps you will see half a dozen streets centreing there, and in almost any one of these streets you can rent a moderate-sized and moderate-priced furnished house. The Rue des Sablons, the street of the sands, I can specially recommend. If you anticipate calls from ambassadors, or cabinet ministers, or the Duke d'Orleans, perhaps you had better go two blocks to the left, to Avenue Henri Martin, where the superior elegance of the neighborhood warrants a great superiority in price. From the Rond Point de Longchamps you can walk to the Bois de Boulogne in five minutes; to the Trocadero palace in two minutes; to the Arc de Triomphe in two minutes.

However well you may become acquainted in that neighborhood with the grocery de Dugas, you will still need to know Felix Potin. Potin is a grocer too, but such a big grocer that he is celebrated all over France. There is no grocery concern either in New York or London to compare with his, in size or excellence. Whether you buy from him the half of a pigeon, cooked ready for eating, or a ton of sugar, or an ounce of pepper, he will take great pains to please you. He has various branches throughout the city, and you have only to ask any native for Faylix Potas to be directed to the nearest one. It is beyond a doubt the greatest providing concern in the world, and is well worth seeing.

Contrary to general belief, the Paris wines are execrable, and the Paris water is excellent. In Passy, at least, it is fresh and sweet, and almost ice cold in midsummer. It may be primed with microbes, as even the natives say it is, but I drank it straight from the tap as long as I was in Paris, without any evil effects. That is more than you will be able to say of the wines when you come away.

Long after you have forgotten the Paris exposition, you will remember the Paris mushrooms. Possibly you have never tasted a mushroom pie; but Therese will manage that for you if you mention it. Mushrooms vary in price from 15 to 25 cents a pound, and they are so light that a pound must come home in a large basket. In Paris you may eat them without fear of poison, for the mushroom growers are born to the business.

ITS SOCIAL STATUS.

From the Smart Set.

"What kind of a town have you here, my friend?" asked a summer resort tourist from the city, addressing a sour-looking citizen of Yaphank who was sitting humped up and grunting in a chair on the porch of the tavern.

"Aw, this is the place," was the acrid reply, "where a couple of young idiots were married in a store window about a week ago, and also the place where the folks that think themselves society leaders play croquet in golf clothes; it's the place where a magnetic healer is summering for his health, and the handsomest married preacher in town stutters like a gosh-darned corn-popper; where they ain't got through with that infernal twentieth century problem yet; where gentlemen of the old school ocasionally pull each other's noses for exercise; where we have "Uncle Tom's Cabin' three times a year and like it every time; where being just one pound. This was fixed upon, and, to obtain a normal air-spacing, the length of chamber required to be about 12 in. Next the breech-screw had to be about 5½ in. in diameter, and the length of the breech-block 10½ in. The total length of the steel billet was 10 ft. 0¾ in., and deducting from this 1 foot 10¼ in. for the chamber and the breech, the length available for the bore was 8 feet 2¼ in., very nearly 24 calibres in length.

The order to make the gun was given on Christmas Eve, 1899, and at the start of work next morning the billet of steel was taken into the machine shop. Most of the men required on the work had to be temporarily withdrawn fro mthe redoubts where they were stationed, forming part of the town guard. During the building of the gun and making of ammunition, the workshops were always under fire from the enemy, many shells, including 94-pounders, bursting around and passing over the building, none, however, actually doing damage; but it was very trying for a man to stay at work at a lathe or other machine, hearing shells bursting around, and not knowing whether the next would come inside or not; and all those who had that experience deserve appriciative mention for the way in which they stuck to their posts. Having described the gun, detailed illustrations of which are to be found in Engineering, Mr. Goffe adds that from the time of its being haded over to the firing party on January 23, the gun was fired steadily, the only trouble being a tendency for the end of the breech-block to "upset" and get too tight in the screw. This was easily remedied by first easing the thread, and subsequently removing one and then two threads at the end. On Saturday night firing ceased as usual, Sunday being observed as a day of rest—from gunfiring—by the Boers. But at daybreak on Monday morning, the first shot fired by "Long Cecil" was productive of an extra loud and peculiar report, and the idea that something had gone wrong was general. A telephonic message came from the redoubt immediately afterwards and an examination showed that the second ring in the outer row had burst through the line in the vent-hole. The gun was at once sent down to the workshops for repair. To take off the first ring the foundry cupola was lighted, the gun hung from the crane with the breech in the sand, and a ring of metal run round the first ring, which in two or three minutes expanded and dropped off, releasing also the broken one, to replace which a forging was already in hand. On removing the gun from the sand, a further examination showed that the two rings of the first row immediately under the outer broken one were also fractured, these having broken straight across on alternate sides of the gun. To remove these necessitated a repition of the process, one more outer ring—the third and the first inner ring having to be expanded. New forgings were put in hand, and opportunity was taken then to make a careful examination of the tube, but no flaw or crack of any sort could be detected, nor any change of dimensions beyond the slight barrelling of the powder chamber already mentioned, which does not seem to have increased with subsequent firing.

The Making Of Long Cecil

Engineering Tells the Story of How Kimberley's Gun Was Manufactured.

Patient Ingenuity Overcame the Many Difficulties That Were Encountered.

Mr. Edward Goffe, a member of the staff of De Beers, tells the story of how he and Mr. George Labram made the big gun "Long Cecil" from back numbers of Engineering, during the time Kimberley was beleaguered, and thereby prevented the fall of that city, which would have had a disastrous effect on the progress of the war. The object in view, Mr. Goffe writes, in his paper to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, was to make a gun of greater power than those possessed by the garrison, which were 2.5-inch rifled muzzle-loading guns (7-pounders), and were not big enough to effectually reply to the enemy's 15-pounders, or to make any impression on his works. A gun of about 4 in. bore, firing a shell 25 pound to 30 pound weight, appeared to meet the case, and to be possible of construction. The possession of a billet of hammered mild steel (originally intended for shafting and ordered as such), 10¼ in. in diameter and 10 feet long, and of several bars of Low Moor iron, in the workshops of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, really suggested to the late Mr. George Labram, chief engineer to the company, the possibility of making the gun, bu boring the steel bar to form the tube, to be strengthened by rings shrunk on, made of the Low Moor iron. The resulting gun would evidently be of a type similar to an early "Armstrong"—heavy for the work done, compared with one of a more modern type; but in this case weight was the minor point to be considered, ease and quickness of manufacture being perhaps the leading ideas. The first difficulty met, with was the resistance of the military authorities to the attempt to make the gun; but as this was purely a mechanical difficulty, further reference to it may be out of place. However, on Christmas Day, 1899, Mr. Rhodes, chairman of the company, gave the order to Mr. Labram to make the attempt. Work was immediately started, and then the difficulty consequent on ignorance, on the part of both Mr. Labram and Mr. Goffe, of practical gun design, was first met with; but several articles in issues of Engineering were of decided service to Mr. Labram and Mr. Goffe in the work of design, and they based their calculations more by comparison with the examples eshown than by attempting the very complex calculations to be found in text books, except in the matter of actual strength. During the progress of the work in the shops, assistance was also given in many details of gun-shop practice, the form of special tools used, etc., by several of the employees there, whose previous experience in Woolwich service, in the Elswick works, and elsewhere, was willingly given to forward the work in hand.

The stock of powder in the town was of many kinds, ranging from "meulled" to compressed cylinders 1 3-8 in. in diameter by 2 in. long. Most of it had been kept for a long time, much of it over 10 years for certain; but it did not appear to have deteriorated, still retaining a good glossy surface. A powder chamber of 4.25 in. bore just contained seven cylinders of powder, four of 1 3-8 in. in diameter, and three of 1½ in. in diameter, their combined weight for 2 in. of length being just one pound. This was fixed upon, and, to obtain a normal air-spacing, the length of chamber required to be about 12 in. Next the breech-screw had to be about 5½ in. in diameter, and the length of the breech-block 10½ in. The total length of the steel billet was 10 ft. 0¾ in., and deducting from this 1 foot 10¼ in. for the chamber and the breech, the length available for the bore was 8 feet 2¼ in., very nearly 24 calibres in length.

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LOOKING GLASSES.

Modern Kinds Are Plated With Pure Silver.

There is a vast difference between the manner of making looking-glasses at the present day and that of a few years back. Formerly it took two or three days from the time a mirror was started until its completion, while now one day is quite sufficient. Then, too, the backs of mirrors were coated with mercury in the primitive methods, and at present sheets of pure silver are used instead. The old looking-glasses reflected 60 to 65 per cent. of the light that fell upon them, and those of to-day reflect nearly 95 per cent. The mercury glass was affected by the heat and cold; the quicksilver would crack or melt and run off, and so completely spoiled its appearance and usefulness; but the modern method abolishes all failings.

Seeking Investments.—Mr. J. Penaluna, M. E., representing a Glasgow syndicate, who own extensive copper mines in Spain and are looking for investments in British Columbia, spent yesterday in the city, leaving last night for the West Coast to examine properties there. Mr. Penaluna has been negotiating at Vancouver for the Brittannia group of mines. Another representative of capital leaving for the West Coast last evening was Chester F. Lee, who has spent some time examining Island mines.