

STRAWS.

Ottmar Mergenthaler, the inventor of the linotype typesetting machine, died Saturday of consumption in Baltimore.

The Cotton States Association, in session at Atlanta, passed a resolution urging the construction of the Nicaragua Canal.

A pinch in discounts is expected about New Year. 60 days' discount are materially easier than three months, owing to the former maturing before New Year, and the latter running over.

Vanderbilt interest controls the Pullman's Company, dropping the name Wagner and adopting the name Pullman. The name of the combination is Pullman, but the controlling power is really Wagner.

Northwest Roads having called in their travellers from soliciting freight and passenger traffic have set them to work hunting up cars to handle the business. This has never occurred before in their history.

Chicago—November 1st will be a notable day in the history of the traffic departments. The Central Association lines will that day materially advance rates on east bound grain, packing house products and live stock.

Mr. Howard Stockton, of the Merrimac Mills, says: The manufacture of cotton is making steady progress. The present flourishing condition will certainly last well into next season. Beyond that it is hardly practicable to make any accurate forecast.

"Iron and Steel" says:—Save for the advance of \$2 in rails, on Monday last, there has been no rise in values. Prices are firm with strong tendency. If there is any buying in the near future it will be difficult to prevent an advance, for the mills have little product for sale.

Cleveland.—The Marine Review says: "Lake vessels capable of moving 17,798,000 tons of iron ore in 1900 are already in the hands of the ore companies, John D. Rockefeller's representatives have 6,300,000 tons of it. Whether all of this capacity will be used in the ore trade or not cannot be stated certainly at this early day.

About advanced freight rates, Wall Street Journal says Canadian Pacific could not be induced to enter into any agreement with other lines operating boats, and consequently the situation has drifted along without any improvement. But now that the British government has impressed several of the Canadian Pacific boats, the company is said to be perfectly willing to put its rates as high as the American lines want.

The value of the Vanderbilt estate is between \$70,000,000 and \$80,000,000. The late Cornelius Vanderbilt's will was made public on Thursday evening, and by it the bulk goes to Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt. Twenty millions in securities are equally divided and held in trust for the use of his children, Gertrude, Alfred, Reginald and Gladys. His son Cornelius gets \$500,000 and the use during his life of \$1,000,000 held in trust. The rest is divided among friends, relatives, retainers and charities. Senator Depew, who made public the will, stated that Alfred had decided to take out of his inheritance a sum sufficient to make Cornelius' share the same as that of the other brothers and sisters, \$6,000,000. This will leave Alfred about \$35,000,000.

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