

and a sharp frost covered the rails with a coating of ice. The draw had just opened to allow the passage of a river steamer and the usual precaution of closing the gates and displaying the red signal lights had been taken. Owing to the frost, however, the car could not be stopped in the usual distance and crashed through the frail gate and into the river.

Perhaps it is true that such 'brakes' as are now in use on electric cars cannot stop them very quickly on steep down grades, or when the rails are covered with frost or ice, but that is no reason why brakes that can stop the cars, even under the most emergent circumstances, should not be used. Herein lies one of the greatest dangers in the use of electric motor cars using the overhead trolley system. But a few days ago a car on the Niagara Falls electric road jumped the track and came nearly going over the brink into the Whirlpool some two hundred feet below, because of an inefficient braking appliance.

THE latest ice bicycle news comes from Leavenworth, Kan. It is said that Dr. E. Christiansen, of that city, owns the American patent right to a bicycle sled or velocipede sled, as its inventor, Leonard Thanner, of Germany, calls it. "The

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original German patent was granted May 4, 1890, and the American patent May 9, 1893. The sled has also been patented in England and Canada. One hundred and thirty three thousand of these novel contrivances have been sold in England so far. The manufacturing price is low because of the machine's simplicity. Bicycle enthusiasts by means of these machines, it is said, would be enabled to follow the sport the year round, and its use with pedals, or a small sail, on the ice would revolutionize the sport of skating or coasting. The velocity of the sled as tested at Munich, Bavaria, showed it to be as speedy as the safety bicycle, and in a long run it excelled, as it required less effort of the rider. The levers work as speed producers and as a brake. The machine is very light, and can be readily taken apart and packed in small compass, making it as portable as an umbrella.

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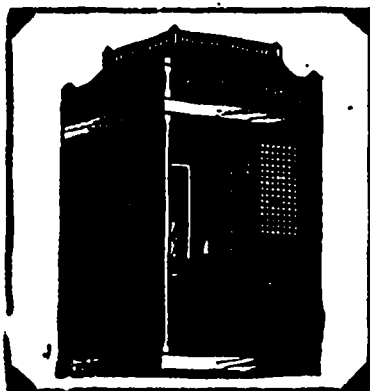
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