plaster may be put on the pit of the stomach, or sipping a glass of cold water with a little carbonate of soda dissolved in it.

TAXATION.—During the last session of Congress, a manufacturer went to Washington to get the three-per-cent tax removed from the article he produced, and the following conversation is said to have occurred between him and a member of Congress:—

Manuf.: "I came on, sir, to get relief from an oppressive burden on my branch of business. There are particular reasons why the article I make should be exempted from the three-per-cent tax."

M. C.: "What amount do you manufacture annually?"

Manuf.: "One hundred thousand dollar's worth, on which I pay $3,000."

M. C.: "And you reckon the tax you pay as a part of the cost of your article, and add it to the price, do you not?"

Manuf.: "Why—yes, sir."

M. C.: "What average profit do you calculate to make on your goods?"

Manuf.: "Fifteen per cent."

M. C.: "Then you make fifteen per cent on the amount you pay in taxes, which, if it be $3,000, will give you $450 more profit than you would get if you paid no taxes. Is it not so?"

The gentleman had no answer prepared to this question, and the conversation ceased.

OUR MACHINERY.—What a contrast does the work of the machinists of the present day present to those of a hundred years ago! At one time, as Mr. Smiles observes, an engine of any size, when once erected, required the constant attention of the engineer, who almost lived beside it in order to keep it in working order, such was the friction of its parts and the clumsiness of its construction. At the present time, however, almost absolute perfection of working is obtained. When the 5,000 different pieces of the marine engines designed for the *Warrior* were brought together from the different shops of the Messrs. Penn, although the workmen who built them up had never seen them before, yet such was the mathematical accuracy of their fit that, immediately steam was got up, they began working with the utmost smoothness. As a new-born child, as soon as it enters the world and expand its lungs, begins to stretch its limbs, so this gigantic engine, immediately steam began to expand in its cylinder, at once exerted its huge members with the smoothness and ease of a thing of life. —*Once a Week.*

CONSCIENTIOUS TRADESMEN.—Messrs. E. and J. J. Neave, of Leiston, England, have issued the following circular to their customers:—"E. and J. J. Neave, grocers, &c., Leiston (Suffolk), respectfully inform their friends and the public generally that they have long seen the injury that the use of tobacco is inflicting on their fellow-men, and the many evils that directly and indirectly arise from it; and feeling that they cannot continue the sale of it with clear consciences, give notice that, on and after——, they will cease to sell tobacco, snuff, and cigars."

AT the Government tailoring establishment at Millbank, England, where the army clothing is made, and about 60 sewing machines driven by steam are in operation, the material is cut out by machinery. A sharp thin endless ribbon of steel revolves like a band saw over pulleys driven by steam, and the cloth 6 to 8 inches thick, with the pattern chalked on the upper layer, is applied to the revolving knife, which rapidly and smoothly cuts it to the required shape; the hand of the workman being simply employed to guide the cloth so that the knife follows the chalked pattern.

TO DISTINGUISH ARTIFICIALLY-COLORED WINES.—M. Blume gives the following simple test:—"Saturate a piece of bread crumb with the wine to be tested, and place it in a plate full of water. If the wine is artificially colored, the water very soon becomes colored reddish violet; but if the coloring matter is natural, the water, after a quarter or half an hour, is but very little colored, and a slight opalescence only is perceptible. The test depends upon the difficult solubility of the real coloring matters of wine in water free from tartaric acid."

SORE EYES.—A little alum boiled in a teacupful of milk, and the curd used as a poultice, is excellent for inflammation of the eyes.

THE LEGS OF INSECTS.—M. Delisle once observed a fly, only as large as a grain of sand, which ran three inches in half a second, and in that space made the enormous number of *five hundred and forty steps.* If a man were to be able to run as fast in proportion to his size, supposing his step to measure two feet, he would in the course of a minute, have run upwards of *twenty miles*, a task far surpassing our express railroad engines, or the famous "Seven League Boots" recorded in the nursery fable. In leaping, also, insects far excel man, or any other animal whatever. The flea can leap two hundred times its own length; so also can the locust. Some spiders can leap a couple of feet upon their prey.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH IRON-CLADS.—The London *Engineer* says:—A comparative statement of the armor-plated ships in England and in France shows that we have ten iron frigates afloat, six nearly ready, and five in various stages of construction, against the French six, two, and six respectively. The *Times* pronounces strongly against the system of plating wooden-built ships. In two vessels now building—the *Lord Warden* and the *Lord Clyde*—we shall save £10,000 by having a wooden frame, and lose £200,000 by the speedy decay of the wood as compared with iron.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

[WEEK ENDING MARCH 9, 1864.]

Ashes—Pot, pearl, $8 75 to $10 per 100 lb.
Beeswax—55c. per lb.
Bread—Pilot, navy, 2nd crackers. 4¼c. to 8c. per lb.
Candles—Adamantine, stearine and sperm, 21c. to 45c. per lb.
Cement—Rosendale, $1 75 per barrel.
Coffee—Java, 42c. per lb.; Rio, 37c.; St. Domingo, 33½c.
Copper—American ingot, 39c. per lb.; bolts, 46c.; Sheathing, 46c.
Cordage—Manilla, 20c. per lb.; Russia—tarred, 21½c.; American 16¼c.
Cotton.—Ordinary, 68c. per lb.; Middling, 77c.; Fair, 82c.
Domestic Goods.—Sheetings, brown standard, 42½c. per yard; Sheetings, brown, seconds, 40½c. to 41½c.; Shirtings, brown, 7-8, standard, 36c; Sheetings and Shirtings, bleached—Wamsutta and New York Mills 42c. to 42½c.; Lonsdale, White Rock, &c., 36c. to 37c.; other makers 19c. to 35c.; Drills, brown, Amoskeag, 42c. to 42½c.; Drills, other, 32c. to 38c.; Ticks, York 60c. to 65c.; Ticks, Amoskeag 42½c. to 63c.; Ticks, other 23½c. to 47½c.; Prints, Merrimack 23c.; Prints, Sprague's 21c. to 22c.; Prints, Dunnell's 20c. to 21c.; Prints, other 15c. to 21c.; Ginghams, Clinton 28c.; Ginghams, other 21c. to 27c.; Cottonades, York 40c. to 60c.; Cottonades, York Mills 45c. to 70c.; Cottonades, other 55c. to 70c.; Cotton Jeans, Laconia, &c., brown and bleached 38c.; Cotton Jeans, other 23½c. to 25c.; Cotton checks, 18½c. to 32½c.; Cambrics, 21c. to 26c.; Cotton Flannels, brown and bleached 31c. to 40c.; Cloth, all wool $1 85 to $4; Cassimeres, $1 50 to $3 50; Satinets, 80c. to $1; Flannels, 47½c. to 70c.; Broad Cloth, $4 to $8.
Dyewoods, Duty Free.—Fustic, $36 per tun; Logwood, $23 50 to $35; Lima Wood, $95 to $100; Sapan, $90.
Feathers—63c. per lb.
Furs.—Otter, $6 to $7 skins; Fox, grey silver, $6 to $10; Bear, $15 to $20; Lynx, $3 to $3 50; Marten, $3 to $20; Muskrat, 20c. to 25c.;
Flax—19c. to 24c. per lb.
Flour and Meal—$6 45 to $10 50 per barrel; Rye Meal, $5 50 to $6 40.; Corn Meal, $6 15.
Grain.—Wheat, $1 61 to $2 per bushel; Rye, $1 30; Barley, $1 35 to $1 50; Oats, 86c. to 91c.; Corn, $1 29 to $1 36; Peas, $1 18; Beans, $2 65 to $3.
Hay—$1 35 to $1 40 per 100 lbs.
Hemp.—American (dressed), $275 to $300 per tun; Russian, $425; Jute, $275 to $280.
Hides.—City Slaughter, 12c. to 12¾c.; other varieties range from 11c. to 34c.
Honey.—99c. to $1. per gallon.
Hops.—27c. to 35c. per lb.
India Rubber.—40c. to 85c. per lb.
Indigo.—Bengal, $1 60 to $2 50 per lb.; others, 90c. to $2.
Iron.—Scotch pig, $49 to $51 per tun; American, $46 to $48; Bar—Swedes (in gold), $90; English, $125; Sheet—Russia, 21c.; English, 7c. to 8½c.
Lead.—American, $10 75 per 100 lbs.; English, $11 75; Pipe, 14½c.
Leather.—Oak-tanned, 44c. to 53c. per lb.; Hemlock, 23c. to 41c.
Lime.—$1 35 to $1 60 per barrel.
Lumber.—Spruce, $18 to $20 per 1,000 feet; White Oak, $35 to $40; White Oak Staves, $40 to $180; Mahogany crotches, $1 45 to $1 50 per foot; Rosewood, 4c. to 15c. per lb.
Molasses.—55c. to 78c. per gallon.
Nails.—Cut, $6 25 per 100 lbs.; Wrought, 31c. to 36c. per lb.
Oils.—Linseed, $1 58 to $1 60 per gallon; Sperm, $1 62 to $1 85; Petroleum, 49c. to 62c.
Provisions.—Beef, $5 to $30 per barrel; Pork, $14 to $23; Butter, 27c. to 33c. per lb.; Cheese, 13c. to 16c.
Rice.—$6 75 to $8 75 per 100 lbs.
Salt.—Turk's Island, 48c. per bushel; Liverpool fine, $2 50 per sack.
Saltpeter.—17c. to 21c. per lb.
Spelter.—11½c. to 11¾c. per lb.
Steel.—English, 20c. to 28c. per lb.; German, 10c. to 17c.; American blister, 12c. to 18c.; American spring, 11c. to 14c.
Sugar.—Brown, 14¼c. to 15¼c. per lb.; White, 15c¾. to 16½c.
Tea.—38c. to $1 55 per lb.
Tallow.—American, 12½c. to 12¾c. per lb.
Tin.—Banca, 51c. to 55c. per lb.; English, 48c.; plates, $13 50 to $16 per box.
Tobacco.—Lugs, 14c. to 30c. per lb.; Cuba fillers, 58c. to 95c.; United States wrappers, 15c. to 45c.; Manufactured, 55c. to $1 25.
Wool.—American Saxony fleece, 75c. to 85c. per lb.; Merino, 75c. to 80c.; California, 25c. to 55c.; Foreign, 16c. to 60c.
Zinc.—14¾c. to 15c. per lb.

Lead as a Poison.

The large number of persons who die annually from the poisonous effects of lead should put people more on their guard, as this metal is used in a great variety of forms for the convenience of man, on account of its cheapness, and the many desirable qualities it possesses over other metals. This metal is a slow but powerful poison in all its forms when taken internally, and often its effects are not manifest until too late. Every family, therefore, should avoid using vessels lined with lead for cooking or keeping provisions in, also the use of this metal for the conveyance of water, as pure water will dissolve the inside of the pipe without the presence of some protecting salt, which forms an insoluble coating and prevents further action; even then there is danger. If you already have lead pipe, the simplest precaution is always to draw off the water contained in it before saving any for use. There is also too much imprudence among the working class with regard to this poison; the painters in their use of white lead and litharge, plumbers eating with hands soiled by particles of this metal, also in the manufacture of glazed cards, glazed earthenware, &c. Many examples of the destructive effects might be cited, but it is unnecessary, as hardly a week passes but we hear of sickness or death from the effects of the substance in question; sometimes caused by ignorance of its nature, oftener by carelessness. Our people drink their poisoned coffee at the breakfast table, poisoned wine at dinner, and poisoned tea at supper; daily mingling, little by little, this unseen destroyer with their food. More caution should be manifested by all, and especially by those engaged in the manufacture of the compounds of lead, and the application of them to the arts.

Crash of a Wind-wagon.

Several of the French papers publish the following account:—

"Recently a curious spectacle collected four or five hundred persons on the Place d'Ault, Department of the Somme. This was the trial of a mechanical carriage, invented by the man who carries the mail between Woincourt and Ault. The carriage was arranged to be propelled by a screw driven by the wind. The departure was effected with a little difficulty in consequence of the hill which it is necessary to mount in order to reach the route from Saint-Valery to Eu. Arrived there, however, the evolutions succeeded to a marvel, amid the applause of the curious, who had followed the vehicle. But it was not the same in returning to Ault. The descent drew the carriage and its conductor with a speed equal to that of an express train, and this speed, which increased every moment, would infallibly have taken the car to the base of the coast, had not the inventor deemed it urgent, for his safety, to turn his locomotive against the end of a house which was by the side of the road. The gable was crushed in, and the ruins fell upon a lot of rabbits which were below, killing some and wounding others. The inventor happily escaped uninjured."

The Wonders of a Watch.

There are very few of the many who carry watches who ever think of the complexity of its delicate mechanism, or of the extraordinary and unceasing labor it performs, and how astonishingly well it bears up and does its duty under what would be considered very shabby treatment in almost any other machinery. There are many who think a watch ought to run and keep good time for years without even a drop of oil, who would not think of running a common piece of machinery a day without oiling, the wheels of which do but a fraction of the service. We were forcibly struck with this thought the other day, upon hearing a person remark that, by way of gratifying his curiosity, he had made a calculation of the revolutions which the wheels in an American watch make in a day and a year. The result of this calculation is as suggestive as it is interesting. For example: The main wheel makes 4 revolutions in 24 hours, or 1,460 in a year; the second or center wheel, 24 revolutions in 24 hours, or 8,760 in a year; the third wheel, 192 in 24 hours, or 69,080 in a year; the fourth wheel (which carries the second-hand), 1,440 in 24 hours, or 525,600 in a year; the fifth, or 'scape wheel, 12,960 in 24 hours, or 4,728,400 revolutions in a year; while the beats or vibrations made in 24 hours are 388,800, or 141,812,000 in a year.—*Lancaster Express.*