

SEEDING MACHINES—Moses D. Wells, of Morgantown, Va. I make no claim to the use of reciprocating bars for causing the movement of the rigid or elastic clearers and discharge apertures of seed planters.

But I claim the combination of the case with the swinging protruding agitators thereof, and the reciprocating bar contained within the case and actuating the vibrating agitators, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

CYLINDER AND PISTON OF HYDRAULIC AND STEAM ENGINES—John Underwood, of Lowell, Mass. I claim the cylinder and piston, made as described, and for the purpose set forth.

CATCHING FISH, &c.—Levi Van Hoesen, of Westville, Conn. I do not claim separately, or in themselves considered, two jaws connected with a spring, for similar devices are employed in various kinds of traps.

I claim forming the two plates, C, G, of the jaws and the steel or lead pieces, A, with portions of hollow spheres, d, b, substantially as shown, for the purpose of protecting the bait when the jaws are sprung, as described.

[This is an improvement in steel snap spring hooks. It is adapted to fishing for flounders, eels, and other fish that swim near the bottom, and also for fish that swim near the surface. It has been practically tested, and has proved highly successful.]

RE-ISSUE.

CURRY COMBS—Wm. Beach, of Philadelphia, Pa. Patented March 13th, 1849. Reissued Feb. 12th, 1850. I do not claim, separately, either trough-shaped comb bars or combs with open backs, but only in the combination set forth.

I claim the combining the trough-shaped bars, a, a, a, which have teeth on their rigid or elastic clearers, with the fold-ed strips of metal, b, b, which form the transverse bars, and receive the wire through them, forming a square, open, or hollow back comb, as described.

I also claim the shank, constructed with the fastening hole, f, made by bending the wire, which saves the welding or drilling, and combined with the combs as described, substantially, so as to act as transverse bars and guards to the ends of the combs.

MARBLE SAWING MACHINES—Jose Toll, of Locust Grove, O. Patented Sept. 9th, 1856. I am aware there have been, heretofore, machines for sawing marble in taper form, and make no claim to such.

But I claim the particular combination and arrangement of the fender, J, J', with the adjustable guide pieces, when the same are constructed and arranged to operate in relation to each other, in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

SEWING MACHINES—Allen B. Wilson, of Waterbury, Conn. Patented Nov. 12th, 1830. Reissued Jan. 22d, 1856. I claim, first, the combination in a single machine of these three following elements, namely, a table or platform to support the material to be sewed, holding it for the action of the needle, and presenting it properly to the grasp of the feeding apparatus, a sewing mechanism proper consisting of a needle and shuttle, or their equivalent, and a mechanical feed automatic, and causing the cloth to progress regularly, to which the cloth is not attached, and so grasping the cloth that it may be turned and twisted by the hand of an operator, such twisting not interfering with the regular progression of the cloth, and the whole being constructed and acting together, and in combination with each other, substantially in the manner and for the purposes specified.

Second, I claim moving a shuttle so shaped and held by its race that jaws may embrace it by means of two jaws, which are alternately in contact with the shuttle, and are constructed more substantially in the manner set forth, making and breaking their contact without any aid from cams or springs, or their equivalents of such devices.

And, lastly, I claim the double-pointed shuttle, substantially as is specified, in combination with jaws for driving it, substantially as are described, whereby the shuttle may be thrown alternately from opposite directions, through loops without practically disturbing the loop thread.

DESIGN.

COOKING STOVES—Samuel W. Gibbs, of Albany, N. Y. (assignor to A. H. McArthur & Co. of Hudson, N. Y.)

NOTE.—In the above list of patents we recognize the names of thirteen patentees whose cases were prepared at this office. A new Circular, of importance to inventors and those about to apply for patents, we have just had published, which may be had gratuitously on application to this office.

Hay Forks—Seneca Falls Manufactures.

MESSRS. EDITORS—In looking over a late number of your most excellent and invaluable paper, I saw that one of your correspondents, from Vermont, wished to learn where he could find a manufactory of hay forks, &c. I take the liberty to inform him that they are manufactured in every variety of style, of the very best quality, and in any quantity desired, in this flourishing village, by Messrs. Gould, Henion & Co. And permit me to say that hereafter, when you do not know where a given article is manufactured, about which inquiry is made of you, it may almost be safe to say that it is manufactured in Seneca Falls, for the manufacturers here, Downs & Co., Silsby, Mynderse & Co., Cowing & Co., J. S. Gay & Co., Powell & Co., Wescott & Co., Gould, Henion & Co., or some other of the large manufacturers here, do make a very great variety of goods, and from some of them almost any given article may be attained. This would not probably have been the case but for the fact that for the last few years they have all, either as firms or in a private capacity, taken and carefully read the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, and when they have heard a call through that medium for any new article, they have made it, advertised it, and put it in the market.

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Seneca Falls, N. Y., December, 1856.

Cheap Mouse Trap.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Take a clay pipe, break the stem off close to the bowl and fill the bowl with cheese, or any material that will attract mice; then take a common glass tumbler (the larger the better,) and arrange your trap in the following manner:—Place the loaded pipe bowl on the floor or shelf where it is desired to set the trap, with the mouth from you; then place the tumbler with one edge resting upon the "slanting" end of the pipe bowl, and your trap is completed. The unfortunate mouse,

following his nose, will crawl under the edge of the glass, commence nibbling at the bait, and, presto, he is in close quarters. This is a very economical and effective trap, the invention of a young man in my employ (Mr. E. Gardner,) and the most effective one I ever saw. I have caught not less than three hundred mice with it during the past summer, and if properly arranged it will never fail.

WM. NORTON.

Huntington, Ind., December, 1856.

The Woodworth Patent.—Lobbying in Congress.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I learn that another attempt is now being made in Congress to have that monopoly, the Woodworth Patent, renewed. I have been told boldly by those who own rights of the Norcross Patent, that it is for their interest to have the Woodworth Patent renewed, and that money will be given them for this purpose. The same story is told of others who own patents of planing machines. Some of them have been coaxed into a support of the Woodworth Patent only to find themselves drawn into vexatious litigation in case it should be extended. They are mere cat's paws to pull the chesnuts out of the fire for the exclusive benefit of those who now hold the monopoly.

I have been informed of one person who has been publicly denouncing the Woodworth extension, and who has privily given \$1000 to assist in carrying the scheme through Congress. I have it direct from a respectable member of the Illinois Legislature, that the buying of votes was no secret during the last session of Congress, and that enormous sums of money were paid to those who pledged themselves accordingly. The proprietors of the patent are not going to lose this sum of money if they can help it. I have been informed that they have \$500,000 pledged to obtain a majority to obtain the monopoly. Will they be able to get this monstrous wrong fastened upon the country for another term by a special act of Congress? If they do, our government may be set down as much worse than that of an absolute monarchy. Such a scheme could not be carried out in Russia, or any of the European monarchies of the present day. The men who, for gold, would sell the liberties of the people now, are worse than Arnold. He had some temptation to commit treason; they have none, and are without excuse.

This patent has been twice extended already, and has been altered from its original meaning since the original inventor died, and it has become an infliction to the community for the benefit of parties who never paid the inventor a single cent, and whose only object is to benefit themselves. It has now been in existence for a quarter of a century, and the people have paid those who have owned it many millions of dollars, and now it is proposed to extend it for seven years longer, during which period the people would be taxed tens of millions more. The tax would have to be paid by every man, woman, and child in the country. The people do not, generally, view this question in its true light. Every man that builds a house, ship, or boat, pays his share of such a tax, and the city of Chicago alone will pay no less than \$158,000 of tax to this monopoly for the present year. Single individuals have paid from one to two thousand dollars in this city for the planing tax on the timber of their own houses.

The tax which Congress will impose on the people, if this monopoly is extended, will amount to more than would purchase, at government price, twice as much land as there is in the whole territory of Kansas, and yet the press of our country, with the exception of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, is mum on the subject. Only for its unyielding love of truth and justice, this monopoly, it is believed, would have been renewed and fastened upon the country before this time.

The people should arouse themselves to a thorough sense of the magnitude of the evil which this monopoly, if extended, would inflict upon the country. I know that many persons are watching Members of Congress with keen eyes, to see how they will act when the question is brought before them. The application for the extension of the monopoly should be kicked out of the Halls of Congress

like a foot-ball; and if the representatives of the people have any respect for themselves and the rights of the people, this is what they will do with it.

S. J. R.

Chicago, Ill. 1856.

Providing Fencing Timber.

MESSRS. EDITORS—The scarcity and high price of timber of late has created considerable anxiety and solicitation on the part of farmers as to the future supply of fencing materials. In many sections of the country the supply of timber is already nearly exhausted. I would suggest the following as a plan entirely practicable and economical. It is merely to set out suitable trees along the fences of farms, and replant them as often as they are cut down. A farm thus stocked would keep up a continual supply of timber forever, in quantities more than adequate to its own requirements. I would suggest the chesnut and locust as being very durable, and of very rapid growth. Each of these can be very easily propagated from the seed and nut.

I have lately heard that the Illinois Central Railroad Co. have planted a large number of trees along the line of their road, with the view of a future supply of timber for cross-ties, &c. It has long been a matter of surprise to me that the same plan has not been adopted by railroad companies in general.

JOSEPH WILCOX.

Joy Mills, December, 1856.

N. B.—In your edition of Nov. 29th, I observed that fat pork has been used as a lubricator upon the journals of locomotives, with success. I have for several years used it on heavy journals with satisfaction, where the best sperm oil would not keep them from heating. It would be well, perhaps, to remark that salt pork is better than fresh; it should also be boiled.

J. W.

[The suggestions of our correspondent respecting the planting of timber for fences we recommend to our farmers. We hope they will be pretty generally acted upon next spring—and winter is the season to lay out plans for spring work. Beltings of trees on farms also afford shelter for crops from high winds, and are well known to be beneficial in many other respects.]

Our Trade, Coinage, and Income Debt.

The following useful statistics, taken from the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, will show almost at a glance, the amount of our national income, expenditure, debt, coinage, and trading capital:—

"During the last fiscal year, the receipts into the treasury were \$73,918,141.16. With the balance in the treasury from the previous year, the aggregate of available funds amounted to \$92,850,117.47. The expenditures of the year reached \$72,948,720.02. The balance in the treasury at the close of the year was \$19,901,325.45. The actual and estimated receipts of the current year reach pretty much the same figures, and a balance of \$22,315,222.81 being in the treasury on the 30th of June, 1857, is calculated.

The national debt which, on the advent of the administration, was \$69,127,937.27, and was subsequently increased by the sum of \$2,750,000 to liquidate the Texas debt, giving a total of \$71,877,937.27, has been reduced to the sum of \$30,963,909.64; in addition, however, we have a liability, under Indian treaties, amounting to \$21,066,501.36, which, as it becomes payable, constitutes an item of annual expenditure, and is estimated for by the Interior Department.

The annual tonnage shows an aggregate of 340,349 maritime tonnage, which is less than the previous yearly statement. But this is accounted for from the fact of there having been a thorough revision of the records of former years, the correction of errors, etc. The revised statements of former years show a regular progressive increase with our commerce and population.

The total gold and silver coinage of the U. S. Mint, since its establishment in 1793, has been \$549,341,914.14; and the entire import of gold and silver, since 1830, has been \$293,505,743, and the export \$43,587,354; there being no account of the imports and exports prior to 1820.

There are 1398 State banks, with a char-

tered capital of \$344,000,000, and a circulation of nearly \$200,000,000. The Superintendent of the Mint estimates the gold and silver remaining in the country at \$200,000,000, while the Secretary estimates it at \$250,000,000."

The Iron Structure for Government.

A building of cast-iron, for the purposes of a Marine Hospital, has been ordered by Government to be built at New Orleans. The building will be perfectly fire-proof throughout. It is well remarked that this very judicious encouragement given to the enterprise by the Secretary of the Treasury will initiate the use of iron in the public architecture of the country.

The Steam Battery.

The great Steam Battery of Stevens, at Hoboken, for which \$87,000 were appropriated at the last Session of Congress, does not appear to progress very fast. This infernal steam battery appears to be a disgrace to the spirit of our people. It has been a great number of years in the course of construction, has cost thousands of dollars, and only a miserable abortion has been the result of all this money and time. The best thing that can be done with it, is to blow it up and commence anew.

A Wrinkle About the Age of Horses.

The editor of the *Southern Planter* says: "the other day we met a gentleman from Alabama, who gave us a piece of information as to ascertaining the age of a horse, after it has passed the ninth year, which was quite new to us, and will be, we are sure, to most of our readers. It is this:—

After the horse is nine years old, a wrinkle comes on the eyelid at the upper corner of the lower lid, and every year thereafter he has one well defined wrinkle for each year of his age over nine. If, for instance, a horse has three wrinkles, he is twelve; if four, he is thirteen. Add the number of wrinkles to nine, and you will always get it. So says the gentleman; and he is confident it will never fail."

Coal Oil for Lighthouses.

The Breckenridge Coal Company have offered to supply the Lighthouse Board with 95,000 gallons of oil as a supply for the coming year. They offer to sell it for a lower price than the best sperm, and that it shall have as excellent properties. The Board never having used such oil for illumination, very prudently ordered a test of its qualities before making the contract. If the result proves satisfactory, the contract will no doubt be made. The supply of all kinds of oil does not seem to be sufficient for the increased demand, as the price has been steadily advancing during the past ten years.

Expensive Chinese Sugar Cane Seed.

A correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, writing from Washington, states that Asa Whitney, projector of the Pacific Railroad, resides near that city, and keeps a dairy with which he now supplies the people of Washington with milk. He also states that he raised an hundred bushels of the seed of the Chinese sugar cane, this season, and that it was all purchased by the Commissioner of Patents at the rate of \$5 per bushel,—a far more profitable crop than wheat.

Louisville Steamboats.

Thirty-six new steamboats were built this year at Louisville, Ky., at a total cost of \$1,021,000. Louisville is a famous place for steamboat building, and her steamboat engineers have a high reputation.

A fatal railroad collision took place at Alliance, Ohio, on the 8th inst., by a train on the Cleveland and Pittsburg Railroad running into another on the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad at a crossing and at a station. Ten persons were killed. The accident was caused by the most gross carelessness. The Pittsburg train stood across the track, and the Cleveland train, which should have stopped, rushed into it at full speed.

The *Saturday Evening Post* commences a new campaign on the 1st of January. It has long been a favorite journal. See advertisement in another column.