

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.
THE PATENT BILL IN THE HOUSE—PATENT REPORTS—
SEEDS—CATTLE DISEASE.

On the 11th inst., Judge Niblack, of Indiana, on behalf of the Committee on Patents, reported the Senate's bill to amend the Patent laws, with some modifications, and moved to take it up. On motion of Mr. Hoard, of New York, the consideration of this bill was postponed to the second Wednesday in December next. This movement coming from Mr. Hoard, who is himself an inventor and patentee, is not well understood here, and needs some explanation. The friends of the bill may consider it effectually killed, as there is not much chance for it to become a law. The fact is, political scheming has become so much a part and parcel of modern legislation, and members have so many axes to grind of their own, that they are jealous of any measure which may take time, to the possible exclusion of their own pet projects.

Mr. Gurley, from the House Printing Committee, reported a resolution (which was passed) to print 50,000 extra copies of the mechanical part of the Patent Office report—10,000 for the use of the office, and the remainder for the members of the House.

In discussing the Appropriation bills in the Senate, the amendment appropriating \$40,000 for seeds and cuttings for the Patent Office was stricken out, but afterwards restored. In the debate one of the senators stated his conviction that the agricultural bureau had abused the appropriation, paying the funds out to mere sinecures and buying seeds from New York and Pennsylvania, and distributing them in other sections at immense expense to the government, which could be bought at any store in any town in the country. Another senator pronounced the whole thing a humbug, and doubted if the Patent Office ever sent out any valuable seeds; and, upon being informed that the agricultural bureau was about to investigate the cattle disease, expressed the hope that the nation would not become a "cow-doctor." And in reference to the agricultural reports, a senator remarked that they were made of material plagiarized from books which ought to be in the library of every agriculturalist. Grave senators get a little hyperbolic at times, and allow themselves to speak lightly even of solemn topics. They are sometimes very waggish also, and bandy the joke and repartee with much good humor.

The Commissioner of Patents has appointed Dr. Thos. Antisell, who is at the head of the Chemical Department of the Patent Office, to investigate the subject of the cattle disease in New England. He is familiar, it is said, with cases of the pleuro-pneumonia in cattle, in Europe. If this is so, the doctor ought certainly to shed forth his light at once. The Patent Office is going on swimmingly, and has a large amount of business on hand. It is thought that Commissioner Thomas finds his official duties quite as onerous as he expected. CHURN.

Washington, June 16, 1860.

THE CATTLE DISTEMPER.—This terrible disease (which—under the name of *pleuro-pneumonia*—broke out, a short time since, in Massachusetts, as has been previously noticed in our columns) seems to be extending its ravages, but we hope it will soon be restrained and disappear. It has visited several sections of the New England States, and has recently appeared in a locality in New Jersey, a few miles from this city. Great excitement and consternation has taken possession of the farmers in various uninfected districts. Town meetings have been held, and committees appointed, for the purpose of excluding all strange cattle, and to demand the slaughter of all those that may be affected, whenever the first symptoms are shown as has been done by State authority in Massachusetts. It is not much to the credit of modern veterinary science in New England, that the slaughtering of infected cattle has been carried out as the only means of preventing the spread of this disease. We are of opinion that by carefully separating the infected from the healthy cattle in the same locality, and treating them upon the same principles as human beings are dealt with in cases of sickness, that the distemper would be just as effectually controlled as by the old barbarous mode of slaying the diseased. It would be a great calamity were this cattle distemper to spread throughout our country generally, but we don't believe it will. As it was produced in winter and spring by poor food and close ill-ventilated stables, it will disappear, in all likelihood, with the free air and abundant pasturage of summer.

WHAT WE PAY TO ENGLAND FOR
HARDWARE.

The Treasury Department furnishes the following table of the value of goods, manufactured from iron and steel, which were imported into this country during the last fiscal year:—

Imports of Iron and Steel Manufactures.

Anvils and anchors	\$64,315
Bar iron	1,185,441
Cables	174,701
Cutlery	1,761,103
Arms	314,519
Hoop iron	387,198
Muskets and rifles	16,851
Nails, spikes	84,804
Needles	254,984
Scrap iron	107,702
Pig iron.....	1,049,200
Railroad iron.....	2,274,032
Rod iron	332,801
Saws	26,495
Sheet iron.....	752,975
Side arms	5,716
Cast steel	1,141,871
Other steel	905,859
Wire.....	14,299
Manufactures of iron	2,150,625
Manufactures of steel	1,043,405

Total imports

Of all this vast value there was not, we presume, a single article, nor an ounce of raw material, except steel (for which we are still dependent upon Sheffield) which could not have been furnished in this country, and not a day's labor which our own skillful mechanics might not have performed. Does it not seem incredible that more than a million should have been paid for bar iron, more than a million for pig iron, and two millions and a half for railroad iron, when the machinery for manufacturing can all be found in existence within less than a hundred and fifty miles of the port where all these things were landed? But yet we can refer with pride to the above list, as indicating—as well by what it omits as by what it expresses—the triumphs and successes of American industry. 26,495 dollars' worth of saws seems an insignificant amount of this great staple article to be imported into this country in a whole year, and yet the fact is so. But an examination of the list will show that vast varieties of "shelf hardware" are entirely left out—no carriage bolts, no screws, no locks, appear among the list of imports; and our readers conversant with the hardware trade know that the great bulk of the Birmingham goods which used to be imported into this country, within the last fifteen years, is now almost entirely superseded by those of domestic manufacture.—*The Iron Age.*

COVERING ZINC WITH BRASS OR COPPER.—To give zinc a coat of copper or brass for the purpose of subsequent silvering or gilding, the following solutions are used:—For copper alone, a solution of sulphate of copper, saturated at the common temperature, is mixed with a solution of cyanide of potassium, adding as much of the latter as is necessary to dissolve the precipitate thrown down at first. The hydrocyanic acid disengaged during this operation must be carried off by a draft or flue. When the mixture is clear, one-tenth or one-fifth of its volume of liquor ammonia is added, and diluted with water to a density of 8° Beaume. For brass, blue and white vitrol are used in equal proportions, and prepared as before. Two parts of sulphate of zinc and one of sulphate of copper give a bright brass coating. Previous to their dipping, the articles of zinc are rubbed thoroughly with finely-powdered pumice-stone and rinsed with water, after which manipulation they are placed in the bath, and remain there for 24 hours. After that time they are again rinsed in water, and simply wiped off. The copper or brass coating has a very bright look, as if polished, and adheres perfectly. The thickness of the coat may be increased afterwards by the aid of a battery.—*Le Technologiste.*

TANNING SKINS WITH THE FUR ON.—Nail the fresh skins tightly and smoothly against a door, keeping the skinny side out. Next proceed with a broad-bladed blunt knife to scrape away all loose pieces of flesh and fat; then rub in much chalk, and be not sparing of labor; when the chalk begins to powder and fall off, take the skin down, fill it with finely-ground alum, wrap it closely together, and keep it in a dry place for two or three days; at the end of that time unfold it, shake out the alum, and the work is over.

WEEKLY SUMMARY OF INVENTIONS.

The following inventions are among the most useful improvements patented this week. For the claims to these inventions the reader is referred to the official list on another page:—

MARINE DOCK.

This invention consists in combining with a suitable platform or staging, furnished with bilge and keel blockings and braces for keeping the vessel in an upright position, a suitable number of columns upon which the cradle is supported; said columns to be pointed at their ends to the cradle and to base timbers, and capable of swaying to and fro, at the same time keeping the cradle in a horizontal position, whatever be the inclination given to these columns or supports; whereby the cradle may be let down into the water under the vessel's bottom, and the vessel elevated with a forward movement, until the columns are in a vertical position, when they will serve the very important object of permanent supports, so that the vessel will not rest upon or be supported by the lifting power. The credit of this contrivance is due to H. J. Crandall, of New Bedford, Mass.

BOILERS.

This invention consists in a certain arrangement of water tubes, in two, one within another, within the flue-box of a boiler with the lower ends of both extending below the grate, and their upper ends even, or nearly so, with the crown of the flue-box, and below the surface of the water, whereby a very rapid generation of steam is obtained, accompanied by a very free natural circulation of water to supply the place of what is converted into steam. The inventor of this improvement is M. R. Clapp, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., who has assigned his invention to Silsby, Mynderse & Co., of the same place.

HOSE PIPE.

This invention consists in making the pipe of two, three or as many more sections as may be desirable, and in attaching the sections together, when slipping into the other, in such a manner that they will be secured water tight, and so that they may be taken apart or put together and secured with great ease and freedom while the water is flowing through the hose; the invention combines in one pipe three nozzles of a different size, either one of which may be employed as necessity may require; thus the pipe-man can always have with him on his pipe a complete set of nozzles which he can regulate at pleasure. This improvement was designed by George Smith, of Macon, Ga.

TYPOGRAPHY.

J. Villet-Collignon and L. George, of Paris, France, have obtained a patent for an improvement in typography, which consists in the formation of types of two or more letters by the soldering together of two or more types of single letters. The advantage of this construction of the combined types over the casting of the letters together is supposed to consist in the fact that if one letter becomes damaged it may be taken away, and the remaining letters are useful; while when the letters are cast together, if one becomes injured the others are useless except as old metal. The inventors use a solder or metallic cement which does not require the use of heat.

NEW CEMENT.—Professor Edmund Davy, lately read a paper to the Royal Dublin Society, on a cement which he obtains by melting together in an iron vessel, two parts (by weight) of common pitch, with one part of gutta-percha. It forms a homogeneous fluid, which is much more manageable for many useful purposes than gutta-percha alone, and which, after being poured into cold water, may be easily wiped dry, and kept for use. The cement adheres with the greatest tenacity to wood, stone, glass, porcelain, ivory, leather, parchment, paper, hair, feathers, silk, woolen, cotton, &c.

THE CUBAN MESSENGER.—We have received a copy of a weekly newspaper published in the English language at Havana, Cuba. Scott, Ackley & Co., No. 53 William-street, this city, are its agents.

C. F. HALL of Cincinnati, has started with his party, to search for the living or dead remains of Sir John Franklin's expedition to the North Pole, in the whaling bark *George Henry*, and the schooner *Amareth*, from New London.

The fourth "National Exhibition of Horses" will take place at Springfield, Mass., on Sept. 4th, and continue four days.