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Rail Road News.

Indiana Railroads.

Some thirty-four miles of the Indianopolis and Bellfontaine Railroad, in Indianna, is nearly or quite ready for the iron. The Company have determined to lay the T rail, which they expect to provide early in the season. This portion of the track extends from Indianopolis to Andersontown, the County seat of Morrison County, and penetrates a fine agricultural region.

The Indianopolis and Peru Road has its superstructure completed from Indianopolis to Noblesville, a distance of twenty miles, and has recently made a contract at Pittsburg for iron to complete this portion of the road. The iron is deliverable in June, and the Company expect to be ready for the cars in October. The northern terminus of this road is Peru, on the Wabash and Erie Canal.

Both of these roads connect at Indianopolis, with the Madison and Indianoplis Road, and will contribute largely to the buisnees of this latter work.

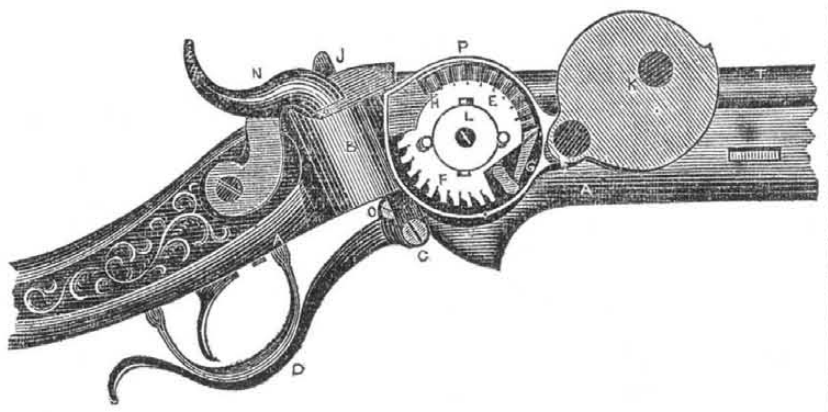
The Knightstown and the Rushville Roads, both of which connect with the Shelbyville Road, and by that with the Madison and Indianopolis Road at Edinburgh, are rapidly approaching completion. Both have full purchases of iron, and are rapidly laying it down. They will be ready for the cars early in the Fall.

Coal in Locomotive Engines.

We look, says the Mining Register, in sorrow at the terrible devastation made in our timber by the Reading Railway Engines. We are not about to complain that reasonable effort has not been made by that Company to discover some mode of burning coal so as to prevent the metalic destruction they attribute to its use. But inasmuch as the value of our coal is regulated in part by the convenience of timber for propping the mines; and as the Colliers of Schuylkill County already complain of the advantages which other coal fields possess, it is of the greatest importance that we be not placed in a still worse position, by cutting off our supplies of prop-timber. In the acknowledged saving which would be made by our Railway if coal could be substituted for wood fuel, we have assurance that every means will be taken to put a stop to the present fearful consumption of our timber. And in this hope, we suggest the attempt to apply the hot-air principle as well under the grates, as in jets of air on the top of the fire. It would be easy to try it at small expense, and our experience in burning coal in ordinary stoves enables us to entertain great hopes that much fuel would thus be saved and the destruction complained of entirely obviated.

The New-Bedford Mercury states that Captain Timothy Colby in that city has a bed-cord made of whales' sinews, which has been in the Colby family since 1640—209 years and has been used by Timothy Colby 41 years, and it is now as good as a dozen new hemp bed-cords. It has never been broken.

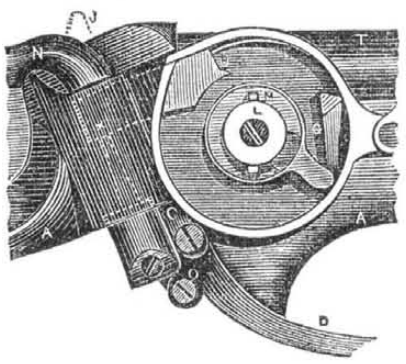
SHARPS' BREECH-LOADING PATENT RIFLE.---Fig 1.



This Rifle is the invention of Mr. Christian Sharps, now of Mill Creek, Pa. It was patented in 1848. The simplicity of its construction, will be apparent by the following description.

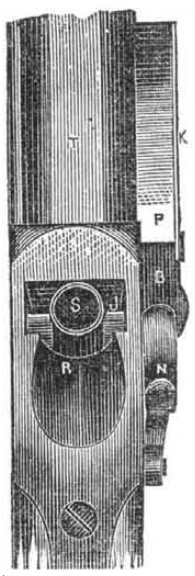
Fig. 1 is a side view showing the cap box open. Fig. 2, is a section showing the interior of the cap box. Fig. 3 is a top or plan view. The same letters refer to like parts. The engravings represent the barrel and the butt broken off, (as every body understands such parts) in order to present enlarged and clearer views. A represents the wooden stock. T is the barrel; B is the nipple or priming chamber communicating by a small orifice with the charge in the barrel, N, is the hammer. The charge is put in at the breech, and the breech itself is a moveable steel back, J, that is pushed up like a wedge to back the charge iu the barrel, and then drawn down to allow another charge to be inserted. There is therefore a strong metal chamber behind the butt of the barrel, and a broad slot in it, in which the moveable steel breech, T, is thrust

Fig. 2.



up and down. This sliding breech is secured to a swivel pivot, O, which moves the breech up and down for the purpose stated, by being operated by the handle, D, which moves on a centre pin, C, thus allowing said handle to be drawn inwards to the butt (fig. 1) of the stock, when the breech is to be raised and pushed outwards (fig. 2) for the breech to be lowered for charging. To charge, the handle D is pushed forward, as represented in fig. 2, when the ball, S, is thrust along the groove, R, into the chamber of the barrel, when the handle, D, is drawn back, as in fig. 1, the sliding steel breech, J, is pushed up, wedging behind the charge, and it is then loaded ready for firing. It is designed for caps, and is self-capping. This is done by the caps, E, being set on spurs of a small moveable wheel, F, in the cap-box, P, as shown in fig. 1. This wheel is taken out, armed around with caps, and set on to two small catches, M, which project out from each side of a barrel spring box, L. The spring is not shown, but it will be understood to be attached to the box, L, inside, and to its screw arbor. The object of this barrel spring is to turn round the wheel, F, with the caps on it, towards the priming box, B. At H is a small iron plate, and behind it is a narrow channel, into which the caps are carried inwards, stripped off, one by one, as they pass through the channel behind the plate, H, and the one pushes the other forward above the small nipple opening, when the nipple, X, when rising, (as it forms part of the sliding breech) catches the cap, and thus caps itself. The wheel moves round one cap every shot, by one being exploded to make way for another to pass into the said channel. The wheel may be capped for 50 rounds. In fig. 2, in the inside of the spring barrel box, P, attached to the barrel box, L, there is a catch, G, shaped like an angular lever. This catch is for the purpose of holding the barrel box, under the plate, H, after it is wound up, to take off the wheel, cap it, and put it on again. It is then set free for the wheel to move gradually round. K is the lid of the cap box. This gun can be capped like another, without the self-capping

Fig. 3.



auxiliary action, and presents a breech-loading rifle of singularly simple construction.—This rifle can be loaded and fired nine times in one minute. Its accuracy is equal to the common rifle. The picket, or patched ball can be used. It can carry half a mile with safety, and in one instance it was fired nine times in one minute and all the balls were placed within a circle of six inches diameter, at forty yards distance. Mr. Albert S. Nippes, is now making about 700 of them of the very best materials, and of superior workmanship. Orders addressed, (*p.p.*) to Mr. Nippes, Mill Creek, Manyunck Post Office, Philadelphia Co., Pa., will meet with prompt attention.

Useful Receipts.

Butter.

This is an article of domestic food, more of which is consumed in the United States than in any other country on the face of the globe. Good sweet butter, oh how delicious. It very often happens among families in our cities, that they will purchase good sweet butter at the stores, and which in a day or two becomes vitiated in taste. This is owing either to the manner in which it is salted and packed, or the manner in which it is kept after it is purchased. Much butter is spoiled from using salt containing lime and other substances which hasten its decomposition. Salt can easily be purified by pouring upon it a little warm water and allowing it to drain; it dissolves and takes out the lime and other extraneous substances, and leaves the salt nearly pure. The quantity usually added to butter is one ounce to the pound. After butter has become rancid, it can be restored and made nearly sweet by a very simple process. This is, to wash it well in cold water, often changed, and after pressing out the water, salt it anew and add a little sugar, say half an ounce to the pound. This will be found to render it much more palatable, although it may not entirely restore that delicate flavor peculiar to new and sweet butter, which once lost can never be restored.

Butter should be kept in a cool, airy, dry place. The majority of city pantries and cupboards appear to be designed for the purpose of giving the butter kept in them, that peculiar odorous flavor (so agreeable to a Hottentot) termed rancidity.

Simple Cure for Croup.

We find in the Journal of Health the following simple remedy for this dangerous disease. Those who have passed nights of great agony at the bedside of loved children, will treasure it up as an invaluable piece of information.—If a child is taken with croup, instantly apply cold water, ice water if possible, suddenly and freely to the neck and chest, with a sponge.—The breathing will almost instantly be relieved. So soon as possible, let the sufferer drink as much as it can; then wipe it dry, cover it up warm, and soon a quiet slumber will relieve the parent's anxiety, and lead the heart in thankfulness to the Power which has given to the pure gushing fountain such medical qualities.

Extreme Cold.

The Vermont Chronicle, published at Windsor, Vt., says, that, on the morning of the 6th ultt., the thermometer fell in that village as low as thirty-five degrees below zero; in Woodstock, thirty-eight, and at Northfield, forty.—In New York City, at 7 A. M.., it was 16° above zero.

Colder Yet.

The Quebec Gazette says, that on the 5th ult., the mercury fell, at Porteneuf, on the St. Lawrence, 20 miles S. W. of Quebec, to fifty-two degrees below zero, and continued below forty during the whole day. In this city, it did not fall lower than 12 degrees above zero.

Warning for Apothecaries.

A young lady in Trenton, N. J., a few evenings since, (says the State Gazette,) experienced a narrow escape from death, by having administered to her a spoonful of creosote, which was sent from an apothecary's shop in a vial very improperly labelled assafœdita. The mistake was not discovered until the fatal poison was entirely swallowed, and the most agonizing pains ensued.