STOCK GAMBLING.

Evils Arising from the Universal Yearning to Get Something for Nothing.

Secrecy made it possible to organize both the opportunity and the temptation to play the industrial game with loaded dice, says the Engineering Magazine. The itching to get something for nothing upon the market is at any time the master vice in trade. One risk of the business boom is always that it lets loose those reckless forces that hasten every disaster of the next business collapse. The new "combines," if they manipulate clandestinely, easily fire every passion to play with stock variations - to lay traps for the unwary, to declare dividends that never have been carned and to unload lying values upon the public. It is evident that every form of secret control-every hidden device as to methods of management-immensely overstimulates this dicer's spirit, and, therefore, adds to the most dangerous uncertainties of business. That this evil can be greatly lessened has been proved not only by English experience—it has been clearly proved by Massachusetts experience. The degree of publicity to which these corporations must now submit in Massachusetts is far greater than is commonly supposed, and has been attended by results so hopeful as to mark a sure way for further legislation. This experience, together with the experience of the interstate commission-in spite of all its failures -may well furnish a safe basis for such federal action as shall give unity of procedure in different states.

WORK DONE BY ENGINEERS.

In Any Undertaking It Is with Them Simply a Question of Making Money.

When you come to reckon up the work that is done by engineers that which really keeps our large works going and finds employment for our workmen-it is what may be generally classed as "new commercial work." says the Engineering Magazine. Into this class fall all extensions of our railways, all expansion in our fleets of steamers, all increases to our factories, workshops, mines, tramways and the like; and the point to be observed in all these is that all are simply purchased for the purpose of making money.

In other words, they are investments. There is no more definite rule for the mumber of ships that sail on the Atlantic than there is for the number of cabs that can find work in the streets of London. Nobody can doubt that if cabs could be built a great deal cheaper more cabs would be put on the road and more work would be found for coachbuilders and their workmen. So it is with ships. A ship is nothing more than the packing case of the goods that come over in it. What the public wants is the cargo. What the ship-owner wants is the profit on the carrying trade, Either of them wants the ship only as a means to these ends, and if ships can be built cheaper the more are they able and willing to afford.

OBSTINATE JURORS.

A Case in Which One Determined Man Made Eleven Think as He Did.

There was a "hold-up" in the juryroom of the court of common pleas in this city a few days ago, says the Hartford (Conn.) Courant. A jury, which had been out 43 minutes, returned a verdict for the plaintiff to recover damages of \$25 and costs. After the verdict had been accepted, one of the jurymen said that when the first ballot was taken eight of the jurors voted in favor of the defendant and four for the plaintiff. A later ballot resulted in 11 votes being cast for the defendant and one for the plaintiff. The jurors were in a hurry to get home and the 11 who voted for the defendant endeavored to persuade the other juror to turn with them. This he refused to do and he stated emphatically that he would hold out if it caused a disagreement or kept the

jury out all night. The one man was evidently stronger than the 11 who were against him. He held to his position, and finally succeeded in bringing the 11 over, with the final result that a verdict was agreed upon for the plaintiff to recover \$25 and costs. The 11 jurors who turned would not divulge the name of the juror who stood out for the plaintiff from the beginning.

DIAMONDS IN STEEL.

Minute Crystals Seen Under the Microscope in the Molten Metal.

In the manufacture of carbon steel microscopic diamonds are formed. A number of steels from a variety of processes have been examined and gave identical results, says the Mining and Scientific Press. A piece weighing 300 grammes was cut from a lump of steel and treated with nitrio acid; the insoluble residue collected was mainly graphitic carbon. After being washed with water it was boiled three times with fuming nitric acid, which partially dissolved the residue; hydrofluoric acid and then fuming suphuric acid were used. There then remained nothing but graphite, which, after being washed, was melted with chlorate of potash. This long series of operations was recommenced, because it was necessary to subject the residue to all the treatments mentioned. The insoluble residue obtained fell to the bottom of a vessel filled with iodide of methylene and the little, transparent octahedrons visible through a microscope burned on a sheet of platinum without leaving any ash. These were the diamonds.

FLOWERS CHEAP IN MEXICO.

Armfuls of the Most Beautiful Blossoms Can Be Bought for a Dellar.

The flowers of the City of Mexico are one of its chief delights. Roses, violets, forget-me-nots, marguerites and lilies bloom all the year round. There are few weeks when a quarter will not buy a splendid big bunch and when a silver dollar will not fill all the vases in the house to overflowing, says Modern Mexico. Flowers are sold not only at the flower market near the cathedral, that is devoted entirely to flowers, strawberries and birds, but at the other gen-

eral markets and on the street corners. The "flower girls" of the capital are all boys and men. At some places in Mexico, particularly Guadalajara, little girls are to be seen on the streets all day and in the evening offering boutonniers for which they will not set a price, but ask you to give what you please. In this city it is hard to find a flower on sale, anywhere, after midday. The flower seller makes up bouquets in the most artistic fashion. The street vendors never sell loose-cut flowers, but arrange them upon a basework of green so that each flower stands out by itself, and the whole bunch is prettily finished with a garniture of green leaves or ferna. Set pieces are also arranged with a fine sense of taste and regard for colors. A pansy wreath three feet across can frequently be purchased at the market for a dollar. Flowers are very generally used at funerals, and it is not an unusual sight to see a casket, even of one of the poorer class, completely covered with flowers, wreaths, crosses and baskets in bewildering array, as it is hurried through the crowded thoroughfares upon an open street.

ODD WAYS OF TELLING TIME.

Many New Yorkers Mark Its March by the Progress of Business.

So regular is the progress of business in a great city like this that many persons mark the march of time without referring to a clock. They merely note passing occurrences, says the New York Mail and Express. No matter in what section of the city one may live he will, after a moment's thought, recall some daily occurrence that will acquaint him with the time of day.

The people on Washington Heights have for years been able to tell to a dot when it is 11 p. m. on week days and ten o'clock on Sunday nights by the tooting of a familiar tugboat whistle. This tug whistles for a watchman. A cashier in one of the biggest banks near Wall street never looks at Trinity as he approaches his office. He knows to a certainty whether he is on time by the location in which he meets a shoestring peddler. If the latter be on the south side of Pine street and Broadway the cashier knows he is on time. Should he be to the north of that point the cashier is late. A woman on West Twenty-fifth street begins to cook breakfast every morning at the moment that a certain police officer goes by. It is her way of telling time, and the bluecoat's approach never varies a minute. Along Third avenue some of the shopkeepers tell the time by simply glancing at the fumiliar face of some passing motorman. It is a most interesting study, this telling of time without watch or clock.

SCHOOLS IN CITIES.

Kansas City and Milwankee Spend the Ceast Per Capita-Eastern Cities Higher.

A shortage in the school fund in St. Paul has caused the superintendent of the school system in that city to make a comparison of the cost per pupil with the similar cost in 14 cities, says the Buffalo Express. On the basis of the figures of attendance the cost in St. Paul is \$22.08. Only two other cities show a smaller cost - Kansas City, where the school year is only nine months long and where the cost is \$20.07, and Milwaukee, where the salary account alone makes the cost \$21.87. Several cities run from \$24 to \$28, while the cost amounts to \$37.80 in Pittsburgh and to \$40.77 in Denver. The eastern cities have a much higher rate than those in the west, Denver excepted, and there the cost of labor and fuel is excessive. The figures given have to do with the entire school system, but the difference is wider when high schools alone are considered. Boston, with its suburbs, has 12 high schools, for which it pays a per capita rate of \$85.40; on a salary basis alone it amounts to \$62.19. In St. Paul the total per capital cost in high schools on the basis of average daily attendance is \$44.36, and out of this \$34.91 is expended for teachers' salaries.

Boston's Boarding Houses. "There can be no general license in Boston's Bohemia," writes Margaret Aliston in Ladies' Home Journal, "as the neighborhood is dotted with boarding houses, where it is the invariable custom that one must pass an examination both in respectability and brains before admittance is allowed, and which are conducted by patterns of spinsterial virtue who sit at the head of a table full of cultured boarders, announcing the cultured menu to each individual somewhat in this wise: 'Miss -, will you partake of lamb warmed in its own gravy? Or a suggestion of shepherd's pie? Or possibly chicken pie to come?"

Overworked Western Freight Crews. Freight train crews on the Northern Pacific recently tied up a division in Montana for five hours while they obtained needed sleep.

Good Oarsmen. Seven Japanese fishermen left Santa Monica, Cal., in open, flat-bottomed skiffs and rowed 150 miles in five days without a mishap.

BULLS FIGHT IN FIRE.

Two Frenzied Animals Waged a Battle Royal Until Buried by the Debris.

A bull fight, with a fatal ending, was a thrilling incident of the fire that destroyed the barn and stables of Leander J. McCormick, at Lake Forest, Ill., the other day. The charred carcasses of two bulls were found in the ruins. The animals had died in a death struggle. They were fighting in the basement of the stable and stopped only when the structure fell in on them. The bulls were two that Mr. McCormick had imported recently from Switzerland, and were of the variety known as Broken Swiss. One was docile, but the other was a sav-

age beast. The animals were chained in the stalls in the basement of the barn when the fire was discovered. Great efforts were made by the workmen about the premises to save the two bulls. When unchained, however, both animals lowered their heads and bellowed till they could be heard above the roar of the fire. The animals came together with a crash, Again and again they charged, as if they realized it was a fight to the death. They struggled with such fury that both of them went to their knees, yet neither had any advantage that could be seen, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The floor above the battling bulls was all ablaze, and the spectators could see the skin on the backs of the fighters smoke and crackle in the heat, but the battle went on furiously. Some of the farm hands, with long poles, tried to separate the maddened beasts, but as they prodded them the fury of the fight increased. The superstructure of the stable was tottering, and still the battle royal raged. The bulls were locked in a death struggle when the building crashed in on them and buried them in the ruins.

CASHING DRAFTS ABROAD.

Essy Continental Banking Methods Which Cause Americans Considerable Surprise.

The continental banking methods are a great surprise to Americans, said a resident of New Orleans who has just returned from a trip abroad, reports the Times-Democrat, of that city. When I was in Paris last month I met a friend one day who had an English draft for £100 on one of the largest banks in the city, and wanted to get the money. He had nobody to identify him, but said, half jokingly, that he was going to try for it anyhow, and

we went to the place together. We were shown upstairs to a large reception-room, set aside especially for customers, and presently a messenger came in and took the draft. About a dozen other people were also vaiting in the room, and after a delay of about ten minutes, a well-dressed joung gentleman came to the door and bawled out in a loud voice: "Mr. John Smith!" My friend (call him John Smith for short) got up and was handed a bundle of bank notes. No questions were asked, and for all the bank people knew, he might have been Mr. Paul Kruger, of Pretoria, or Mr. Brigham H. Roberts of Utah

I was astonished, and in going out I took occasion to ask the well-dressed young gentleman whether the bank wasn't taking desperate chances in that catch-as-catch-can fashion. "And why?" he inquired, opening his eyes. I tried to explain, and he shrugged his shoulders. "We have never had any losses," he said.

SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH

Eats Raw Meat, and Can Kill Fishes Treble Its Size-Makes a Queer Whistling Sound.

A gamy, omnivorous fish with a cannibalistic tendency is the paradise fish which sports in the white house aquarium. În size it is no longer than one's little finger. The male is the fighter, though its mate will not hesitate to take a fin against anything that comes its way. A pair of these fish were brought to the white house from Siam ten years ago, and it is estimated that there are now between six hundred and a thousand of the species in the aquarium. They are fed principally on raw meat and are kept in separate tanks. Their favorite prey is the gold fish, and a tiny paradise fish, when the opportunity offers, will tackle a goldfish treble its size and kill it with one blow from its

The paradise fish displays instinct that comes close to intelligence. It knows its keeper, and when he goes near the tank, which he never does except when he has food for it, the little. fellow comes to the surface and makes a peculiar noise which resembles a low whistle. This is continued till the keeper tosses in the food.

When a number of these fish come to the surface at the keeper's approach the sound recalls that of a flock of quail drumming.

Insuring Finland Editors. Something new in the insurance line is offered in Finland, where the newspapers have suffered so severely in circulation and receipts from censorship and suppression that a concern has been organized to secure them from loss for a fee of five per cent. of their gross income. The insurance consists

of a guaranteed indemnity not to ex-

ceed 60 per cent of the loss of gross in-

come due to suspension. Mammoth Euchre Party. A cuchre party in which 2,400 persons are to engage will soon be held in Grand Central palace, New York, the proceeds to go toward the completion of the Church of St. Phillip Neri, Bedford

PITH AND POINT.

The difference between a wit and a humorist is that a wit says things and a humorist writes them.—Puck. "Is she really a society girl?" "Well, she makes and receives a great many calls." Really?" "Yes; she's a telephone operative."-Philadelphia Rec-

"The average life of an engine is only 30 years?" said an astonished passenger. "Such a tough-looking thing ought to live longer than that." "Well," said the driver, "perhaps it would if it didn't smoke so much."-Answers.

"Do you know that a man is threeeighths of an inch shorter at night than in the morning?" demanded Dinsmore. "The last time stocks took a tumble," replied Mullins, "I was \$2,000 shorter at night than in the morning."-Life.

Said Mrs. G-, who had come to spend the day, to little Edith: | "Are you glad to see me again, Edith?" "Yes, m'm, and mamma's glad, too," replied the child. "Is she?" "Yes, m'm She said she hoped you'd come to-day and have it over with."-Ohio State Jour-

"Take that dog away!" shricked the terror-stricken woman. "He won't hurt you," answered the animal's owner. "But he acts as if he were mad!" that's all right. He's merely trying to paw his nice new muzzle off his face. He ain't mad. He's only indignant."-Washington Star.

Some one always finds the romance in a public man's life. No man ever married in the usual way, with a parade, Lohengrin and something to eat, and then became distinguished afterward, that the wedding was not referred to in later years as a "romance." -Atchison Globe.

UNEDUCATED MULES

How They and Unskilled Packers Brought Disaster to the British in South Africa.

The fact that the loss of two crack British regiments and a battery of artillery at Ladysmith, the other day, was directly attributable to the stainpede of the ammunition pack mules strongly emphasizes a remark that has been made repeatedly during the past few weeks by the stockmen of this

"The English officers are shipping some first-rate mules to South Africa, has been the general comment among experts, "but they'll be no use for packing until they are thoroughly trained."

The importance of a first-class pack train in such a campaign as the British are now undertaking in the Transvaal can hardly be over-estimated. It is impossible to use wagons to any extent over the trackless veldt, and the army must depend on its mules to carry its provisions, its ammunition, its machine guns, its light artillery and the major part of its camp equipment. Without its pack train a regiment would be in very much the position of a man. who had a match but no cigar.

In order to "pack" properly a mule requires a special education, and therein lies the source of no end of prospective trouble in the Transvaal. Up to date the British officers who have been making their headquarters in New Orleans have bought and shipped upward of 7,000 mules. The specifications call for small, active animals, sound in wind and limb, and weighing between 800 and 900 pounds, and they have been culled from droves in all parts of the country. They came from northern Illinois and southwestern Texas and all the intermediate region. As far as an swering the stipulated requirement, they were an exceptionally satisfactory lot, but, unfortunately, there was no educational qualification, and in the language of stockmen, they were "green." It is doubtful whether one in a hundred ever saw such a thing as a pack.

An effort was made to remedy this difficulty by engaging a number of expert American packers and sending them over with the different consignments to break the animals upon their arrival in South Africa, but much to the regret of the officers very few could be secured at any figure. The packers of the west are undoubtedly the best in the world, but they belong to the upper rank of skilled labor and find employment too easily at home to dare to make a long journey across seas. At any rate only a handful were obtained, probably not more than four or five to

each vessel that has sailed. The foregoing will give a fair flea of the difficulties under which the British army is certain to labor through lack of competent trainers and packers. In the hands of a lot of clumsy Kaffirs, the fine animals sent from this port are more apt to prove a source of danger and annoyance than of actual itility. Moreover, the trains are wanted for immediate service, and even if skilled men were on the ground they would lack the necessary time for training. It is a serious problem and entitled to consideration among the greatest of the difficulties that beset the present campaign.-N. O. Times-Democrat.

Case and Comment. The solemn air of judicial gravity and dignity of the supreme court is sometimes disturbed by a flash of humor. On one decasion there was an argument going on, and the attorneys were using a map to illustrate the case. One attorney, in the course of his presentation of the case, pointed to the map in question and was proceeding to dilate upon the same, when Justice Grav asked him what the map was. "Why, your honor, it is just a bird's-

eye view of the land in controversy," answered the counselor. "Well," said Justice Gray, "I wish you would bring the map a little nearer; I haven't got a bird's eye."-Washington

Times. Courage.

Courage is the thing that enables us to forget our fears.—Chicago Daily

A NOVEL BRIDGE.

It Carries a Sort of Aerial Ferryboat Across the Seine at Rouen,

A novel bridge has just been completed at Rouen. The structure spans the Seine at a point about one-eighth of a mile distant from the Boieldieu, the principal bridge of Rouen. The authorities of Rouen had in mind the necessity of providing for an additional bridge by which speedy and safe communication between the two banks of the Seine might be had without interfering with the traffic on the river, which has enormously increased in recent years, amounting in the last 12 months to about 2,000,000 tons.

At first the city authorities looked with favor upon a drawbridge, but the proposition to build a structure of this sort was successfully opposed by the chamber of commerce upon the ground that a drawbridge was expensive, cumbersome in operation ant not infrequently out of order, entailing considerable expense for repairs and causing much annoyance and loss of time to the traveling public.

It was finally decided to build a bridge the like of which existed at that time in only two places in the world-at Nervion, in Spain, and at Bizerta, in Tunis. The work of construction began with the erection on each bank of the river of a steel pillar 200 feet in height. These pillars were designed to appear light and graceful, while being, in fact, massive and strong in every

Between the pillars, at a height to admit of the passage beneath of the largest vessels, a sort of suspension bridge was built, consisting of a horizontal platform supported by strong steel cables stretched between the summits of the pillars on shore. The platform, or base, of this overhead bridge is 155 feet above the water. Upon it are several steel tracks, along which roll the wheels carrying the vertical cables and the car attached to them.

In order that the tension produced by the weight of the overhead platform, together with that of the loaded car, might not be great enough to drag down the pillars, the latter were supported by steel cables, extending from the summits of the pillars and from the base of the overhead bridge to the ground, where they were anchored in solid masonry.

The car for the accommodation of passengers and teams is 30 feet long and 40 feet wide. The central portion is for the use of vehicles of all descriptions. Upon the sides are covered houses for pedestrians, one quite elaborately constructed and furnished for the use of first-class passengers, the other a simple shelter for those of the second class.

The combined weight of the vertical cables, rails and rollers and the car. when loaded to its fullest capacity, is about 105 tons, and this is the weight which the pillars and the overhead structure must support. As an extra precaution the mechanism and the vertical cables have been duplicated, so that in case one set should become damaged the other may be put into immediate use. A system of counterpoises is presumed to make derailment im-

Work upon this novel bridge was begun in April, 1898, and the structure was completed within one year. It was not, however, open to traffic until quite recently. The bridge was built by M. Arnodin, of Chateauncuf-sur-Loire, who makes a specialty of these so-called "aerial ferries." Besides the one at Bouen and the two others before mentioned, he is now preparing to build a fourth over the river Scheldt at Ant-

The total cost of the new structure at Rouen was only £2,500. It was pronounced safer and more to be relied upon for uninterrupted use than a ferry, while at the same time being much less expensive to build and operate than a permanent bridge of any other description .-- London Sun.

Square Tip to Billiard Cues.

A billiard cue with a square tip instead of a round one is an innovation that may shortly be put to a practical test. Of course, the experts will smile in derision at this statement and say a square tip would be impracticable but that is because they have never tried it. A well-known amateur of this city, who is of an experimental and inventive turn of mind, conceived the idea and had a special cue made with a square tip. He says it answers every purpose to which the ordinary cue is put, in addition to which it has a number of advantages over the round tip. For one thing, it is impossible to make a miscue. The full force of the cue strikes the ball and gives it more purchase. The point of contact between the rounded tip and the ball is, perhaps, one-tenth less than that of the square tip and the ball, and where "English" is used the latter tip assures a much greater control. The inventor of the square tip has applied for a patent and hopes to introduce it through the medium of several well-known professional players.—Philadelphia Record.

Teahouse Named "America." The queen, says a gossip, intends to add one more to the list of teahouses on the Balmoral estate. Each of these retreats is decorated to represent some particular country. For instance, there is "India," which is furnished with bamboo and Indian matting; while "China" is decorated with the Celestial emblems in beautiful colorings. The new teahouse is to be "America," and will be put up in readiness for next year. - Chicago Times-Herald.

Information. "Do you know what foxes are good for?" asked the boy with the inquiring

"Good for fox hunting, of course," replied his companion.—Puck.

FRIENDLY SQUIRRELS.

They Come Into the House and Answer to Their Names When Called.

What can be done in the way of taming squirrels has been well illustrated a good many times in this city, and nowhere better than at the house and grounds of the Misses Clary, on Ingraham avenue and Union street.

The family began to feed and pet the sqiurrels about four years ago, and have got them so that they are very tame. They feed them every day, and the squirrels appear as regularly as boarders. They run all over, and when let in through the house play like kittens about the lawn, turning somersaults and performing their graceful capers. The family have become very much attached to them, although the squirrels are sometimes so mischievous that they get out of patience with the little animals. If not let into the house when they expect they have sometimes gnawed the water spouts. The greater part of this has, however, been done by some red squirrels, which are less tractable than the gravs.

They are intelligent little beasts. The family have named some of them. and the little things know their names and would come when called. To drive them away when bent on misthief once some one threw a bowl of water on one of them, and the little thing darted off with a reproachful lock on his face, enough to haunt one for days. To keep them from gnawing it has sometimes been found necessary to daub the window sashes with a mustard preparation, the taste of which they do not like.

These squirrels have their nests in a little recess under the eaves, and it is an interesting sight to see the mothers of the family teaching their young coes to climb about the trees and to their nest in the house. One day an old one was taking a young one up a tree to a limb near the house, from which the old ones jump a distance of about a yard to the building. The little one was exhausted by the elimb; the mother first tried to drive him; then to lead him by going ahead, but to no avail. Finally the eld one had to take the little one up and carry him over to the building.

The family have been wondering why these squirrels have diminished in size since they began to feed them. The old ones seem to be driven away by the young ones, so that there is a constant succession of different squirrels, and those now there are not so big and do not have as good fur as those that were first on the ground, The family have wondered if constant feeding on nuts had anything to do with it. They have always given them such nuts as fiberts and pecans, and have generally cracked the nuts for them, although the squirrels will crack them themselves. But they have got so used to nuts with a comparatively soft shell that they will not crack an ordinary hickory nut, but will carry it off and hide it. Such nuts were found hidden in the toe of a boot belonging to a member of the family, behind a pillow on the lounger! and the squirrels will go over to adjoining lots to hide them. Some families in the city who feed squirrels have got them to eat bread and corn, but the Misses Clarys' squirrels have lived so high that nothing but nuts will do for them.-Springfield (Mass.)

FROM BRAIN TO HAND.

How Standard Time Is Secured-The Fraction of Time That le Lost.

"I read an interesting article the

other day on how standard time is secured," said a New Orleans college professor, "but it omitted one important point which was explained to me by a member of the Smithsonian staff the last time I was in Washington. The time observations at the different observatories, by which the standard is established, are taken by noting the exaut instant at which some certain designated star crosses a line on the object glass of their telescope. The instrument is pointed at the star, and as soon as it touches the line the observer presses a button that makes a mark on the slowly revolving cylinder. The cylinder is divided into spaces correspending to minutes and seconds, and the mark consequently indicates the precise fraction of time at which the star arrives at a given place in the sky. How that is checked against other observations, taken at different localities in exactly the same way, and forms the basis of a calculation by which the chronometers of the world are adjusted. is something I won't attempt to explain. The point I had in mind is this. The pressing of the button and making the mark on the cylinder is theoretically instantaneous, but really it isn't. Between the instant that the observer sees the star touch the line and the instant that his finger pushes the button is a brief lapse of time consumed by the transit of the impulse from his brain to his hand. To the nonscientific man it would seem absurd to take account. of such infinitesimal intervals, but in delicate calculations they are highly important. Not long ago an instrument was built that records the exact speed of brain impulse in different people. The subject is told to press a button as soon as a figure appears on a dial, and it takes the average person nearly half a second to do so. That interval, required by the nerves to do their telegraphing from the eye to the finger tip is now taken into consideration in making the computations for standard time. By failing to allow for it in the past, the chronometers have been in error from five to ten seconds a year. The detail is curiously impressive, because it shows what extraordinary pains are taken to secure absolute accuracy.- N. O. Times-Democrat.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS