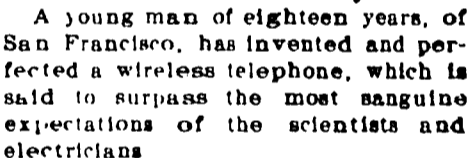


AGAINST CRUEL PARENTS

An extraordinary method of fabricating bogus bank notes has just been detected in Brussels. The operators cut small pieces from real notes, and put them together with infinite dexterity on a tissue paper so fine that the fraud could only be with difficulty detected when the bogus note was held up against a strong light. From ten good notes an eleventh of higher denomination was manufactured in this way.

"Americans occupy in so many respects a material primacy in the world's affairs that a newspaper to them is what the contents of a bag of despatches are to a diplomatist. Every American is a political sovereign and may aspire to the highest official place. Generally, he is even more of a business man in his panoramic survey of active affairs. He is interested in commerce, mining, agriculture, or any of the myriad forms of industry? The newspaper gives him the latest intelligence. If any is stirring, in his special department His national boundaries reach from the borders of Asia to the eastern extremity of the West Indies, from the lower reaches of the St. Lawrence to the arid sands of Southern California. There are forty-five States, five Territories and a vast aggregate of outlying islands to hear from. Exciting public issues succeed each other swiftly, and an American may take some part in deciding every one of them. He may speak, or write, or debate as a participant. His ballot counts one, and no ballot counts for more. He is no mere looker-on or student of abstractions when poring over a newspaper. He is a part of what occupies his mind. New York Sun.



Up to date Russia, including Poland, the Caucasus and Finland, has from 1,200 to 1,500 automobiles, among them many of the lighter kind. Besides these there are fully 1,500 automatic bicycles.

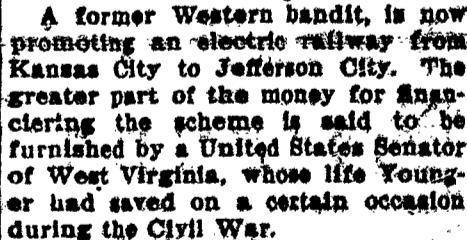
English and French Submarines.

Great Britain is leading the way in building submarines for attack and from this point of view it is doubtful whether France is ahead or whether she will be ahead a little later on.

METHODS FOR WORKING

"Every rope used in the British naval service, from heaving line to hawser, whenever used on board ship or in dockyard," said the head of a large rope manufactory, "has woven into one of its strands, for purposes of identification, a colored thread. A different color is used according to the port of manufacture, red, blue, green, and yellow being adopted for different ports. The presumption is that any rope with the colored thread found outside of such uses is in improper hands. This custom has prevailed in the British Navy since long before the days of Nelson."

"The seats are arranged on terraces, on the plan of the old Roman amphitheatres, and on the day when the Melbourne Cup race is run there are always from 225,000 to 250,000 persons at the track. The Australians are inveterate gamblers and future book for the big race is prepared six months before the race is run. The horses over there are among the finest in the world and there are some exciting races, both flat and steeplechase. The Melbourneites are great followers of every sort of sport, and at an amateur football game I have seen 60,000 persons occupying the stands."



If we no longer live in an age when, in Lord Beaconsfield's famous phrase, "Young men prattle protoplasm," it is only because of the inexhaustible resources of science, which have distracted our attention with later discoveries. Nowadays the public mind is prepared for anything and therefore the announcement that a practical process has been discovered for extracting nitrogen from the atmosphere, and for making it available to agriculture as the basis of a chemical manure, will probably only create a mild sensation. The announcement, if it is substantiated, is of the utmost consequence, however. It solves a problem which has long disgusted both agriculturists and scientists. The fertility of the soil is by no means inexhaustible, and the supply of fertilizing material from the Chilian nitrate fields is also confined to easily calculable dimensions. "Wherewith then shall the earth be salted?" is the question that presents itself, and it is a question which certain Norwegian experimentalists claim to have solved.

from Extinction.

The King's coachman never knows where he is to drive until His Majesty is actually seated in the carriage. This is a continuance of the rule which came into force when Queen Victoria ascended the throne.

