

battleship Iowa, the best fighter in this or | ing cold air into the firerooms, where any other navy, was launched at Cramps' | the stokers stand almost naked at their shipyard in Philadelphia Saturday. A work-these are only a few of the wellfair daughter of the Hawkeye State, Miss | nigh limitless purposes to which steam Mary Lord Drake, christened the vessel, is put on a modern man-of-war and the while the rest of the honors were borne energy of coal is used to facilitate the by her father, Gov. F. M. Drake. Miss daily work. Drake is a typical Iowa girl and a young lady of grace and dignity. Since the elec-



tion of her father to the office of Governor she has occupied the position of "first lady of the State" in a manner that 14-inch armor. has gained for her the esteem of all who

EFORE a distinguished gather- | thousands of electric lamps, and the ing of representative citizens of great searchlights as well, freezing tons the State bearing its name, the of ice for daily use of the crew, pump-

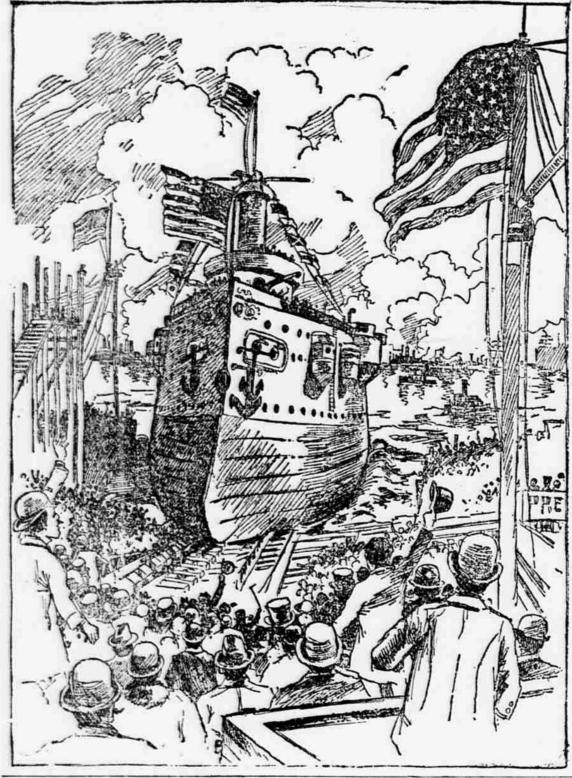
Cost \$4,000,000.

The Iowa has been built in an almost incredibly short time, indicative of the facilities which this country is acquiring for turning out great battleships in short order. The contract for the Iowa was awarded only a little more than three years ago, and her keel was not laid till August, 1893. This ship cost the Government for hull and engines alone a little more than \$3,000,000, and her guns and appurtenances will cost more than a million in addition.

The Iowa has a thousand tons greater displacement than her prototypes, the Indiana, Massachusetts and Oregon, which are already recognized as among the greatest naval vessels afloat. Her length on the water line will be 360 feet; beam, 72 feet 21/2 inches; draft, 26 feet 9 inches; displacement, 11,410 tons. Her guaranteed speed is to be 16 knots an hour. The main battery consists of four 12-inch and eight 8-inch breech loading rifles and six 4-inch rapid-fire guns, and the secondary battery of 24 rapid-fire guns, four Gatling guns and five torpedo tubes. Her sides will be protected by

The Iowa is fitted with a ram, and in a close engagement her commander will be Nearly 300 persons attended from able to drive her at a speed of about Washington. The party included Vice | twenty statute miles per hour, with all

LAUNCH OF THE BATTLESHIP IOWA.



President and Mrs. Stevenson, Secretary | the mighty rush of 11,410 tons of steel, and Miss Herbert and Mrs. Micou, Secre- pushed by engines having 11,000 horsetary and Miss Morton, Attorney General power, at the foe. It is almost impossiand Mrs. Harmon, the naval committees from both houses of Congress, the Iowa of such a blow. Nothing that floats could and Alabama Congressional delegations, stand against it. The Iowa, as the latest Maj. Gen. Miles and staff, the chiefs of and finest example of American naval the naval bureaus and other army and architecture and engineering, has atnaval officers. Most of the excursionists | tracted the attention of all the foreign

The Iowa is intended solely for fighting purposes and is the fourth battleship built for the new United States navy. It has been constructed with the idea of sea purposes and is to be far superior to the brag ships of the English and French navies. It is not easy to comprehend the potential power of this mighty fighting machine. Imagine, if you can, a monster of white aspect, 360 feet long, 72 feet broad, sitting 27 feet in the water, and weighing 11,410 tons. Down in the hold of this great craft an army of coal heavers and firemen will shovel fuel into thirty yawning, glaring mouths. The steam thus generated is used in almost innumerable ways. There will be no fewer than a hundred engines in the Iowa when she is finished, electrical and hydraulic, used for the purposes of raising anchors, taking on and discharging stores, bringing ammunition from the magazines to the great guns, turning the turrets. swinging the rudder, discharging ashes



MISS MARY LORD DRAKE. from the fireboxes, lifting and lowering the ship's boats, heating and drying every

ble to estimate what would be the effect were accompanied by the ladies of their experts and is already one of the most notable vessels in the world.

HE WAS HOLMES' LAWYER.

For Unprofessional Conduct Shoemaker Temporarily Disbarred. William A. Shoemaker, a brilliant young Philadelphia lawyer, who was



LAWYER SHOEMAKER.

senior counsel for the notorious Holmes on his trial last fall, has been suspended from the privileges of the Pennsylvania courts for one year. He was found guilty of subornation of perjury in that case and was sentenced Saturday. Shoemaker got a woman to sign a false affidavit to the effect that Pitezel, the man murdered by Holmes, had in her presence expressed an intention to commit suicide.

The principal evidence furnished in the attempt of the prosecution at London to prove that the Transvaal prisoners had violated the foreign enlistment act related to the cutting of the telegraph wires. The examination was adjourned until April 28 to give time for the arrival in nook and cranny of the hull, illuminating | England of witnesses from South Africa.

400 SHOTS A MINUTE

RECORD OF THE COLT AUTO-MATIC GUN.

All You Have to Do Is to Tie the Trigger Back, and It Keeps Right on Firing-Its Weight Is Only Forty Pounds.

To Be First Tried in the Navy. An automatic machine gun has recently been adopted by the government, which, after being set in motion, will fire 400 shots or more a minute so long as the cartridges hold out. All a soldier or sailor has to do is to fire one shot. Then he can tie back the trigger and go to dinner if he wants to, and the gun will keep firing away.

The gun in its recent tests at Indian Head, near Annapolis, was fired for a trial of its accuracy at a 200-yard range. It made 100 consecutive hits in 16 seconds. In the test for durability the gun was fired 8,000 times, and



showed no signs of weakness or wear afterward. Such rapid strides have been made in ordnance and gunnery in the last fifteen years that it has been difficult for those whose election and calling was not the development of engines of destruction to "keep up with the procession." A gun that will shoot automatically is an interesting feature in the equipment of modern armies. The Maxim gun was the first self-firing gun. Now comes the Colt automat-

The new Colt gun weighs about forty pounds, and can be carried by a cavalry trooper in a boot. The ease with which it can be transported and the fact that in action only one man is necessary to handle it are its great points of value. The fact that a squadron of cavalry can gallop off and by simply dismounting and setting up its Colt guns on tripods transform itself in a couple of minutes into an effective battery, each gun of which is sending forth 400 shots a minute, may put a new phase upon the battles of the future. In fighting in hilly or mountainous country, where the transportation of field artillery is always a matter of difficulty, the light weight of this gun makes it of especial value. The government will first try the gun in the navy. It will be mounted in the military tops and other places of vantage on the new cruisers and battleships, with the idea of sweeping the gunners on hostile ships from their positions. Four or five hundred shots a minute poured on a gun port or a barbette turret would make things un-



CARRIED BY A TROOPER.

comfortable for the men serving the hostile guns.

In the Maxim gun, of which much has been said lately, the force of the recoil is made to do the work of extracting the shell, reloading and firing. In the Colt gun the automatic action is adopted by the Kaiser shows exactly effected by the expansion of the powder gases in the barrel. On pulling the trigger the shot is fired, and after the bullet has passed a vent just back of the muzzle, and before its exit from the muzzle, the gases expand through this vent upon the piston and gas lever. which, in turn, works the breech mechanism, opening the breech, ejecting the shell and feeding to the gun another cartridge. The gas lever, returning, forces home the cartridge, closes and locks the breech and fires the gun. If the trigger be held back the same operation will be repeated as long as cartridges are supplied. The ammunition for the gun is carried in small boxes and fed to the gun by a belt. The belts of cartridges are coiled in the the boxes, and all that one has to do is to introduce the end of the belt into the breech of the gun, set it going and it fires away and feeds itself.

A Short Prayer.

The fact that short prayers are likely to be well received by members of a political assembly was graphically illustrated at the Republican convention of Illinois in 1878. The Rev. Robert Nourse, then pastor of the Congregational Church at Springfield, had been invited to make the opening prayer, and the temporary chairman, Colonel Babcock, as he announced that the clergyman would "invoke the Divine blessing," whispered to him to "cut it short." We condense the subsequent proceedings from the Chicago Tribune: The injunction was obeyed to the

very letter, for the prayer was substantially (if not literally) as follows: "O Lord God of nations, we are met to nominate officers for our State. Give us wisdom that we may nominate the best men; when we have done that, grant that they may be elected, and

when elected make them true to their trust. Amen."

The delegates who had been composing themselves for a prayer of the usual proportions were taken by surprise, The pith and logical point of the prayer was recognized; as the last word was uttered, the convention broke out in a whirlwind of applause, which continued for some minutes.

When the time for nominating the first State officer, that of State Treasurer, arrived, some enthusiastic delegate nominated Mr. Nourse. This colled forth a new outbreak which that gentleman assisted in checking by positively refusing to be a candidate.

A similar scene was enacted when the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction was reached, with a like result. And so the reverend gentleman was kept busy to the end declining the honors which the convention seemed desirous of thrusting upon him.

THE LATEST FAD.

Jeweled Censers Which Emit a Tiny Cloud of Incense.

The modern woman has taken to burning incense at her own shrine. The latest thing in jeweled smelling bottles is a veritable censer that swings from milady's chatelaine, and when lighted diffuses a delicate perfume and a tiny cloud of incense. The little chatelaine censer comes in cut glass and silver in very dainty designs. Its inner mechanism has a nice little device for automatic lighting; extinguishing is accomplished by merely excluding the air by putting on the silver top.

The perfume burner is in reality a tiny lamp, burning, in lieu of a wick, a prepared stick of incense as fragrant as the frankincense and myrrh of Biblical days. Eastern perfumes, such as the pungent, aromatic sweet grasses of India and Ceylon, are favorites for this use. In a short time the woman



who formerly affected musk and attar of roses will float into drawing rooms, theater boxes and church pews in a cloud of Oriental incense; and she of the violet sachets in silken interlinings of every frock will burn violet essence in clouds of spring odorousness.

SOMETHING FOR SPORTSMEN,

The Photographic Rifle Shows Just Where the Shot Goes.

The American nimrod will soon be able to decide to a nicety whether his gun has failed him or not. He will be able to tell at a glance when he has shot a strolling cow instead of the expected bear, or, perchance, riddled one of his hunting friends or a passer-by with buckshot.

This he will do by simply removing from the gun barrel a small photo graphic apparatus affixed to it. The German Emperor recently introduced "the photographic rifle" among his roy al guests at Romington prairie. It proved to be an immense success it deer-stalking. In this form of hunting the sportsman matches the keenes power of human patience, endurance and skill against the marvelous defens ive instincts of the game.

The swift antiered beauties are more frequently wounded than killed outright by a ball. In that condition they run many miles with the hounds and huntsmen often following, and even then may escape. The new apparatus where the shot took effect, and thus enables the hunter to determine whether or not it will pay to follow up the game The naked eye may deceive the hunt

er, who is usually trembling with ex-



SHOWING CAMERA ATTACHMENT.

camera always corresponds with the "sight," it must necessarily reflect the exact spot where the bullet is aimed. The camera opens the moment when the "sight" is taken and closes with the picture fixed in it a fraction of a second before the firing of the shot. The device is light and easily detachable. The hunter's breast pocket serves as a dark room for the records of his skill.

Exploding an Old Myth-"Are you superstitious?" "No; I got out of that at a very early age." "How did it happen?" "I was born on Friday, April 13, and the Friday that I became 13 years old a rich uncle died, leaving me \$3,000 by will."-Chicago Record.

"Now I'm ready to treat you," said the doctor, emerging from his private office. "A little whisky, with seltzer on the side, please," returned the patient, absent-mindedly.-Chicago Evening Post

ALL ABOUT THE FARM

SUBJECTS INTERESTING TO RURAL READERS.

Potato Planting with Modern Machinery-Good Fences Are Important-Many Pleasures in Farm Work -How to Guard Against Hog Cholera.

Planting Potatoes. In planting potatoes, either for home or for market, the first essential, says the American Agriculturist, is a well-

drained, rich plat of land. A field which has been two years in clover is usually the best. To this apply a heavy dressing of well-rotted barnyard manure. Break the sod in the fall or the winter three or four inches deep, then in spring turn it over to a depth of eight or nine inches, and cut up thoroughly with a disk harrow, continuing the operation until the seed bed is well fined and in the best condition. Use a smoothing harrow to compact it sufficiently, so that it will not be dried out | bones. The presence of the fat is obunduly. The ground is now ready for planting. The old method of hand grinding more difficult and retards the planting will probably continue for the

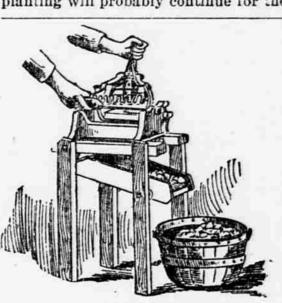


FIG. 1. HAND CUTTER.

general farmer who cultivates but a small patch for his own use. The potatoes are cut by hand to two eyes, dropped in rows three feet apart, with the hills eighteen inches apart in the row if they are to be plowed one way, and two and one-half to three feet apart if they are to be cultivated crosswise. Checking, however, is hardly ever necessary except where the land is very foul. For commercial planting, hand processes are entirely too slow, consequently inventors have constructed machines both for cutting the potatoes into suitable sized pieces and for planting them. There is also on the market a machine which cuts the seed and at the same time does the planting. Figs 1 and 2 represents a hand potato cutter which will do the work of eight or ten persons. The potato is dropped into the hopper, the handle brought over and pressed down, and the potato is cut into pieces of a uniform size. Fig. 1 represents the bottom of the hopper, crossed by six knives, with one running lengthwise. The number of knives can be decreased so as to make larger pieces of it, or can be increased and smaller pieces obtained. This machine can also be used for cutting beets, turnips, carrots, and other roots for stock feed.

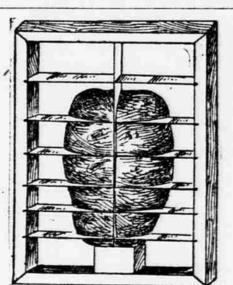


FIG. 2. KNIFE OF HAND CUTTER.

Machines for planting potatoes at the rate of four to eight acres per day are no longer en experiment. One man only is needed to operate the machine that plants cut seed, while the automatic cutter and planter requires a man and boy. These implements open the furrow, drop the seed, and any desired amount and kind of fertilizer, and cover evenly with soil to a uniform depth, bringing an even stand. A marker indicates the next row and keeps the rows straight. One of these machines soon saves its cost on a farm where potatoes are grown to any extent.

Pleasures of Farm Work. Many people despise their work, when they ought to be thankful that they have something to do. A man or woman who goes through life loathing his daily work is a miserable mortal, who makes this world full of hell, and prepares the way for plenty of it in the next, says Rural Life. A child that has not been taught to work has not been half raised. An education that does not develop habits of industry is a curse to its recipient, and the recipient is a curse to the State. In this new country of ours there is abundant opportunity for everybody who loves to work to get rich. Industrious people are the happiest, most virtuous, and companionable of all society. Industry begets all the cardinal virtues, while indolence begets misery, want, vice and crime, and these things follow the rich as well as the poor. I met a farmer not long ago who had learned to hate his lot upon the farm. He had determined to sell out and go to a certain little village and open a restaurant. The village has already twice as many restaurants as the customer needs. The farmer has never had any experience in running a restaurant or walking in town of this kind are taken, another outlife. It is, therefore, safe to predict | break may occur at any time. Proper that he will utterly fail and learn to sanitation, food and good care may hate the restaurant tenfold worse than | ward it off. the farm.

Seeding to Grass. clew as to the character of the soil, nor kept in good repair. Keep weeds and

asks advice about seeding clover to grass field that has been in hoed crops for two years, but for which he has no manure or fertilizer unless he buys on credit, says Storr's Agricultural Stand ard. If he has use for the fodder, a crop of oats and peas, and clover grows therewith, for plowing under in the fall, would be a good order to follow before seeding down. If this plan is adopted. I would advise the use of 500 pounds of bone and 200 pounds of muriate of potash per acre when the oats and peas are sown. Sow one and onehalf bushel each of oats and of peas as early as the ground can be worked, plow the peas under and sow the oats and fifteen pounds of common red cloverseed after plowing and harrow lightly. Unless the ground is quite dry the cloverseed should only be bushed in.

Different Kinds of Bone Meal. Bone meal is not confined to one name, but is known also as ground

bone, bone flour, bonedust, etc. We find in the market raw bone meal and steamed bone meal. Raw bone meal contains the fat naturally present in jectionable, because it makes the d composition of the bone in the soil, waile fat itself has no value as plant food. When bones are steamed, the fat is removed and the bone is more easily ground. Moreover, the chemical nature of the nitrogen compounds appears to be changed in such a manner that the meal undergoes decomposition in the soil more rapidly than in case of raw bone. The presence of easily decaying nitrogen compounds in bones hastens, in the process of decomposition, to dissolve more or less of the insoluble phosphate. Bone meal should contain from 3 to 5 per cent. of nitrogen, and from 20 to 25 per cent. of phosphoric acid. About one-third to onefourth of the latter appears to be in readily available condition. Raw bone meal generally contains somewhat more nitrogen (1 or 2 per cent.) and rather less phosphoric acid than steamed bone meal. The fineness of the meal affects its value; the finer the meal the more readily available is it as plant food .-Bulletin New York Station.

Draining in Place of Grading. It is often said by farmers that low, wet places need to be filled in so that the water that now settles in them can run off over the surface, says the American Cultivator. But anyone who tries to grade up even a small hollow knows how ineffective this method proves. A tile drain dug through the center of the wet place, if a small one, and with two or three branches if larger, will do the work much more cheaply and effect a permanent improvement. Where a large quantity of water runs into the low place from adjoining uplands the drain may not at once be able to remove it. But water standing over a field even for two or three days, while an under-drain beneath it is carrying off the surplus water, does no harm to any crop. There are, in fact, no crops on the land in spring excepting winter grain. We have had winter wheat covered on a flat piece of land several inches deep with water, which froze over the surface, but without any injury to the wheat. The water sank away under the ice. By the time a thaw came the surface was dry and the crop had simply been saved by the ice from exposure to the freezing and thawing of surface soil it would otherwise have re-

Small Litters Are Best,

ceived.

I believe that a sow that produces six or eight pigs at a litter will bring a better income generally than one that produces twelve or fifteen pigs, says a writer in an exchange. The reason why I think so is this: A sow in farrowing twelve or fifteen is almost sure to have a lot of them small, very runty and no account whatever. Almost sure to be all sizes, and what is more disgusting than to have a large litter of pigs of all sizes. A litter of this kind seldom grows and does as much good according to the food consumed as a smaller litter. The unevenness of the litter seems to be the worst feature of the situation, for the reason that the larger ones fight off the smaller ones, and thereby, after a while, the smaller ones begin to dwindle and die, and after all, you have nothing left of your large litter but a few of the larger ones, where, if you had eight goods pigs to start with. you would not be bothered with the trouble I have spoken of.

Drinking Water. Speaking of drinking water for the hens is a subject too often left out of consideration, says Home and Farm. They don't want or need a great deal, but they want it with a vehemence that makes up for any lack in quantity. And in cold weather they ought to have it with the chill taken off. Cold water may not hurt the hen's teeth, but it does the rest of their organism, and its isn't good for them. A good plan is to give the flock water three times a day, and to empty the vessel from which they have drunk afterward, so as to prevent the water freezing in it.

Guard Against Hog Cholera. On farms where cholera appeared last summer and fall new hog lots ought to be provided this spring, and the animals should not be allowed to run in pastures which were frequented by diseased stock. If necessary, sow a patch of clover, which will take the place of a regular pasture field. Lots can usually be moved at comparatively small expense. Unless precautions

Good Fences on the Farm. Good fences are an important thing A Connecticut farmer, who gives no on every farm, and they need to be