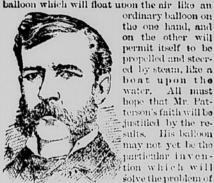
#### Farm Lands.

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The Steam Balloon Invented by William

Patterson, San Francisco. Now comes Professor William Patterson, bridge builder, actor, hunter, squatter, trap-per, soldier and inventor, of San Francisco, and solemnly avers that he has constructed a



ed by steam, like a boat upon the water. All must hope that Mr. Patterson's faith will be sults. His balloon may not yet be the particular inven-Stion which will

solve the problem of WILLIAM PATTERSON. air navigation, yet let no one doubt that the problem will be solved. If Professor Patterson does not do it, then somebody elso will. This is the age of

Mr. Patterson has invented a number of articles in his time. One of them is an auger which cuts a square hole. He is a disabled soldier and wears a G. A. R. badge.

For twenty years he has been studying about this steam balloon. He thought by day and dreamed by night. At last, his mingled dream and thought have taken material form in the machine shown in the picture.

It will be observed that this balloon, like the steamship and sail boat, takes the shape of a bird or tish, those creatures which travel at ease through air and water. This is a point in its favor. The whole machine is 189 feet long. In its widest part it is 48 feet. It has a lifting power of 17,000 pounds. A unique feature is its propelling power. This consists of 3 separate engines of 12 horse-power each, 36 horse altogether. They work either together or separately. A parachute of 11,000 square feet is attached, to save the air travelers in case of accident. It lies folded upon the side of the balloon, but can be unfurred almost instantly, the inventor says. Great arms or ribs are shot out and the covering straightens itself upon them. The parachute is opened and closed by the balloon's steam machinery. The car is 12 feet deep. The balloon part alone is \$4 feet high. The entire height, bag, car and wheels and wheel shafts is 54 feet. The whole machine weighs 9,500 pounds and cost \$15,000.



The man who had faith enough in this air steamer to advance money to help build it was not one of the California millionaires, as one might expect. It was a person who was himself a practical aeronaut, Professor Carl Meyers, of New York. The fact that be, with his experience, put in his money to con struct the thing, scores a long mark in its

The car part consists of hickory or white ash ribs, veneered with birch. It is flat-bot tomed. The balloon or inflated part is divided into three compartments by strong, white cotton sheeting. This prevents the rush of gas to one portion of a balloon. The bag is itself made of the strong, white cotton cloth, of triple thickness at the top. The danger of bursting is thereby lessened.

The bag is inclosed in a net of flat woven linen bands, with a three-inch mesh. The netting is attached to the car by iron hooks,

caught into eyelets in leather straps Professor Patterson has expected for two years to make the attempt to cross the continent from San Francisco to New York, but circumstances have thus far prevented his making the attempt. There is lack of money sufficient to try the experiment, for one thing. This is how it is at present with the bright idea that struck Billy Patterson. The propelling force of the machine is placed immediately at the intersection of the car and balloon, so that both can be controlled by it. The engine is thus elevated above the bottom of the car. The Herreshoff engine is employed.

The wheels that appear below the edge of the car are to catch it when it lands and to roll it upon land. They are attached to bumpers and worked with machinery, so they will not jolt and can be turned about in any direction. The propeller screws that appear beneath the car are made of hollow steel covered with green rawhide. Each screw is operated by one of the engines. No ballast is necessary. The balloon is elevated or depressed by means of the serows beneath. At the stern appears the combined rudder and

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