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CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

There are very many mining companies and individual or firm mine owners—indeed the great majority—who can not or do not employ specially trained engineers at their mines, and are obliged, when an emergency arises, to look to an expert for advice. This means a special study of each separate case by the expert, and the work is done under disadvantages to both parties. The engineer who is thus called upon has to visit the ground and familiarize himself with the conditions and requirements. This takes time, and the expenses are proportionate, while the result may not be so satisfactory either to himself or his employers as it ought to be. Such irregular, scattered and uncertain jobs necessitate large fees. Now, if a practice which is common abroad were more generally adopted here there would be a gain on both sides. A comparatively small stated salary would command the regular services of an efficient man near the home office, and as he would have time to look after a number of properties simultaneously, especially if located in the same district or neighborhood, the saving in time and labor would offset the change from large but irregular fees. Almost every consulting engineer finds a great part of his time unoccupied, while there may come a rush of work which he is unable to perform. There is another argument in favor of the system recommended: It usually happens that at the

home office there is not a single man who is acquainted with the technical details of mining and metallurgy. No matter how familiar the officers and directors may be with the purely business conditions, they are frequently at a loss when some small question comes up, which could be referred to and easily settled by their consulting engineer, if they had one. It would not be necessary for him to make a personal inspection in most cases. A trip to the mine or works once or twice a year, and study of the plats and reports as they are kept up, would make him familiar with the requirements, except where new developments are made, or important changes are projected.

Practical working superintendents and foremen do not like to have their work interfered with, but they are willing enough to accept advice, which is not interference but assistance, and they almost always have such a regard for the property with which they are connected as to wish for the best results, so that there is no difficulty on this score. As a matter of fact, the system advocated is found to work well so far as adopted, and we commend it to the attention of mine officers and owners as a means of securing economy and efficiency in the management of mining property.

THE RESTRICTION OF PAUPER IMMIGRATION.

Our New York daily contemporaries have been for some time endeavoring to awaken the attention of Congress to the necessity of restricting pauper immigration, and appear to have met with some degree of success. A congressional committee has recently been "slumming it" in New York, and some action will probably soon be taken, especially since the Italian government is inclined to aid in suppressing the contract or "padrone" system, against which the newspaper attacks are more particularly directed. This, however, is but a step in the right direction, for there is no reason why paupers and criminals of all nationalities, French, German, Irish, Poles, so called "Hungarians," as well as Chinese should not be included in the restriction.

These outcasts of Europe are dropped on our shores by governments wishing to be well rid of their criminals, by steamship companies in search of the few dollars passage money, by contractors and capitalists so thoroughly engrossed in the pursuit of wealth as to be blind or indifferent to the blows they are striking at the very foundations of our national stability. They come pouring in in numbers far too great to be assimilated by our people without grave risk of materially lowering our national moral standard. The pauper and criminal classes remain in the larger cities, while the more able-bodied seek the West, there in some cases to found colonies in which their national faults and prejudices are perpetuated. It is time the United States retired from the sentimental position of being the "home of the oppressed." It is the American who is now becoming the oppressed and needs protection.

Aside from motives of patriotism or desire for the national morality, it is questionable if this foreign influx, in such great numbers, and the subsequent employment of these cheaper grades of labor, is advantageous to the country. A manager of one of the leading mining establishments in Pennsylvania, in remarking upon the fact that many superintendents refused to be "bothered" by young college graduates working in the mines in order to learn the practical details of their profession, said: "When I can get brains as well as muscles for a dollar a day, I do it every time, even if they (referring to the graduates) stay but a month. I can get plenty of muscle and brute strength, but brains are a scarce article in the market." This is probably the opinion of the majority of employers, possibly not in connection with college graduates, but in the sense that a really skillful laborer is always cheaper than the unintelligent workman, and the best man in his trade is always the cheapest for the employer.

A visit to Castle Garden after the arrival of an emigrant steamer will convince most people that the majority of foreigners reaching us belong to the lowest, least intelligent, often the most degraded classes. They pollute our country, and their influx should be stopped, or serious troubles, of which the Anarchist murders in Chicago were but a faint indication, will surely follow.

THE ROLE OF IGNORANCE IN MINE EXPLOSIONS.

On March 29th last there were two explosions in the mine No. 6 of the Keith & Perry Coal Company, at Rich Hill, Mo., which caused the death of twenty-three persons by asphyxiation. The report of an investigation into the cause of the accident which has just been made to the "Commissioner of Labor Statistics" by the State Mine Inspector, by Prof. W. B. POTTER and others, contains some points of wide interest, as showing the need of that elementary "training" of miners which we have recently advocated in these pages.

It appears from the report that the mine is opened on a coal-bed about five feet in thickness, at a depth from the surface of 247 feet. It is worked on the usual double entry, pillar and room system, the entries 9

to 12 feet wide, and the rooms about 25 feet, and is well ventilated by an exhausting fan. In fact, the mine is well laid out and efficiently managed, carefully inspected for fire-damp, and every reasonable precaution taken by the owners against "accidents" of the kind which has overtaken it. The mine makes scarcely any water, and is very dry and dusty.

Like most of the Missouri coal-beds, this one produces constantly small quantities of fire-damp. Large outbursts or blowers have not, however, been met with, and the use of open lights in the mine was universal. There is unanimous testimony to show that in this, as in other respects, the mine was a "safe" one.

Though it is impossible to determine absolutely from an analysis only, or from the proportions of its constituents, the exact degree of inflammability or explosiveness of coal-dust, yet there is nothing in the following analysis, made by Professor POTTER, to indicate this dangerous quality; indeed, the very high proportion of ash and only moderate percentage of volatile matter would indicate a rather unflammable coal, and the practice of the miners in blasting with enormous charges of powder and frequent "blow-out" shots sufficiently prove that this coal-dust becomes explosive only under the most severe provocation.

	Moisture.	Vol. matter.	Fixed carb.	Ash.
Lump coal.....	5.05	34.40	40.50	18.05
Nut.....	5.16	35.48	37.24	22.12
P.a.....	4.50	34.95	35.57	23.98
Average dust.....	6.00	33.08	34.67	26.25
Dust passing 40 mesh.....	6.40	31.44	30.75	31.41

This dust was taken from the floor of the mine, and that of it which passed through a 40-mesh screen is given in the last line. It is probable that the dust collected after such an explosion had lost some of its volatile hydrocarbons.

Under the law of Missouri, enacted at the dictation of the miners, the miner must be paid equally for all the coal broken without regard to whether it be lump coal or fine slack. There is, therefore, no inducement for the miner to lessen the proportion of fine coal. This, in practice, appears to have led the men to use powder in the most lavish manner to replace skill in mining. They do not undercut the coal or even side cut it in the entries, and, as though that were not enough to leave the powder to do, the holes from 4 to 6 feet in depth, 2½ inches in diameter, were made perpendicular or very nearly perpendicular to the face of the coal, and were charged with enormous quantities of powder (from 1 to 2 quarts to the hole) and fired, as Professor Potter says "without regard to consequences."

As demonstration of the enormous waste of powder in this mine, it is of record that during the month of March up to the date of the explosion, there were obtained only 18.81 tons of coal to the keg of powder (25 pounds) used, while the average output of coal per man per day was 5.31 tons, a consumption of more than seven pounds of powder per man per day. The average "get" of coal per keg of powder for the whole State of Missouri was last year 82.12 tons, and in Illinois the average was 59.6 tons per keg, and in St. Clair County, Illinois, where the bed chiefly mined is six feet in thickness, the "get" of coal was 194.3 tons per keg of powder.

The testimony shows that, blown out shots in this Rich Hill mine frequently would send flame 30 to 50 feet, along the entry, and on this occasion three of these shots were fired in the face of the entry, and at least one of them was a "blown out" shot; it threw a block of coal weighing 195 lbs. a distance of 84 feet, and exploded a keg of powder carelessly left open in the entry. This indeed appears to have so intensified the heat that the long suffering coal dust, which must have filled the air of the mine after 18 or 20 blasts had been fired in quick succession, finally exploded, destroyed the brattices, stopped ventilation, and suffocated 13 men before they could reach the shaft.

Another explosion occurred in the other side of the mine (a separate split of air) about an hour later, due no doubt to the derangement of the ventilation and the accumulation of coal-dust and small quantities of fire damp.

It is highly probable, in fact almost certain, that fire-damp in small quantity, less than 1½ per cent or 2 per cent, or less than can be detected with an ordinary lamp, contributed to propagating the flame in the dust, and of making it "explosive," but there can be no doubt that the chief explosive was the coal-dust itself. Some of the inspectors speak learnedly and obscurely about CO, CO₂, CH₄, etc., and attribute the explosion largely to CO from the powder smoke! but there is in reality no mystery about the "accident," it is shown clearly enough to be primarily due to the barbarous system of mining by blasting in the solid without undercutting and in total ignorance of how to "pitch" the holes. It was brute force without intelligence, and since the advantages to the miner in pitching his holes at a proper angle are so easily demonstrated that, however ignorant he might be, he would learn this advantage, we are inclined to place some of the blame for the "brutal" mining methods practiced in this colliery on the underground foremen, who might have bettered it by a very little instruction and a few examples made of those who made "blow out" shots.

The ideas of the ignorant miners employed seemed to go no further than to put in plenty of powder, and let it go—as one of the unfortunate men who fired the fatal shots, and lost his own life through his ignorance, said to another miner: "I am going to blow hell out of it;" and he did.

THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN LEAD COMBINATION.

We have received, through the courtesy of a correspondent, full particulars of the recent conference (June 29th) in Paris, which was called with the object of devising means for "bettering the condition of lead producers." As the following list will show, nearly all the great European producers were represented at the meeting, at which the subject was discussed, and the views of some who were unable to attend were presented in writing: T. Sopwith & Co., Ltd.; The London Lead Company; The Société de Rhein-Nassau, of Stolberg; The Mechernich Company; The Mines et Usines d'Ems; The Stolberg & Westphalia Company, of Aix-la-Chapelle; S. B. Goldschmidt, proprietor of the Braubach mines; The Spanish Peñarroya Company; Rothschild Bros.; The Compagnie d'Escombrera-Bleyberg; The French Pontgibaud Company; The Spanish Compagnie de la Cruz, at Linares; The Spanish Mines d'Aguilas; M. Raunheim, of Paris; Ignacio Figueroa, and Luis Villanova, large Spanish producers, and many other Spanish producers.

The report of the meeting of German producers which was held at Cologne on June 12th, was presented as expressing their views.

Without repeating the details of our well-informed correspondent's communication, it is evident that there was unanimity of opinion on only one point, namely: that the price of lead should be higher than it is, but there was considerable diversity of opinion as to the way to bring about this much desired end.

Many of those at the meeting seemed to think that a strong syndicate should or might be formed to buy the lead from the different producers at a minimum price based on £14 in London, and to sell it at £16, £18 or even £20, dividing the advance realized over £14 with the producer about in the manner the copper syndicate is doing: There was not much light thrown on the somewhat important point as to who would provide the capital for the syndicate, but the representative of a Spanish company suggested that the syndicate be named the "*Compagnie Générale du Plomb*," that it be composed exclusively of smelters and miners, and that the stock of the company be paid for either in lead at £14, or in cash, pointing out that the company could thus get all the stocks of lead in the market. It was intimated by another gentleman that some of the producers would want cash for their lead to pay wages, etc., so the former proposition did not receive much approval.

Another gentleman, representing the lead interest of a great banking house, suggested that the only way to maintain prices would be to consign all the lead to one London house, who would sell it on commission for the benefit of producers, a proposition promptly rejected by the German producers, who have a home market for nearly all their lead, and want to do their own selling and save the commission.

The discussion then turned on whether there would be any need of limiting the production, the sanguine ones thinking that the markets can absorb the 300,000 tons a year at which the present production of lead in Europe is estimated, and others pointing to the stock of lead in London, estimated at 12,000 tons, as a proof that production is too great. Finally, a committee was appointed at the close of the meeting to consider the questions raised. This committee wisely resolved that it is unnecessary to investigate the question whether there is too much lead produced since the market price demonstrates that, but it proposes to submit to the next meeting of producers, to be called a few months hence, propositions to reduce production 10 per cent, and to allow the trade of each country to be managed by a sub-committee, and a central committee to keep all in harmony.

After carefully perusing our correspondent's communication, it is evident that absolutely nothing practical was accomplished at the recent meeting, and the most important questions appear to have been almost altogether ignored.

It goes without saying that all the producers would be delighted to have a strong financial syndicate guarantee them £1½ to £3 per ton more for their lead than they are now able to obtain, to say nothing of the possibility of £9 or £10 per ton, which some of the gentlemen thought might yet be the price of lead if no combination be formed.

But how to get a satisfactory guarantee for the price was an unsolved question. One of the gentlemen stated incidentally that, before the courts the syndicate engagements would have no value. It would (like the arrangement between our anthracite companies) be merely "an engagement of honor," though it was said that the producers should put up a penalty or forfeit to insure good faith on their part.

No particular attention appears to have been directed to what appears to us the most important question of all, namely, the effect of the high prices, which the proposed syndicate would be organized to secure, on the production of lead by mines not in the combination.

One gentleman, Mr. LUIS VILLANOVA, our correspondent informs us, did indeed lay before the meeting the opinion that—

“From the moment that, by means of a combination, the production is brought to such a limit as to increase the price to the desired point, an infinity of mines now stopped or unopened will commence producing and will render sterile the sacrifices of the great producers. The conditions in Spain are very favorable for this, owing to the great number of mines, the greater part of which are watching the market, ready to commence work when the price becomes remunerative. It would be a matter of six, eight, or ten months to get the higher prices so steadied as to encourage the opening of new mines, and if there be another country situated like Spain, it is not too much to expect that in a short time the market would see lower prices than the present.”

Some anxiety was shown concerning the large production of Australia, which was said to be now sending 14,000 to 16,000 tons a year to England. As a matter of fact, a single company, the Broken Hills Proprietary Company, is now producing at the rate of 20,000 tons a year, so that Australia will, no doubt, ship to Europe, next year, as was suggested by some of the gentlemen present, fully 30,000 tons of lead.

Not a word was said concerning the lead production of the United States, which this year will probably amount to 160,000 gross tons, or more than one third the entire production of the world.

Why is it that Australia, with 20,000 tons a year, has become a source of anxiety to the European markets, while this country is not even mentioned in a meeting of their lead producers? Yet some day we shall make more than we can consume, and will probably export it, in manufactured form, to an extent that will attract attention.

There was nothing at this great meeting of European producers to indicate the probability, or, perhaps, even the possibility of establishing an efficient syndicate to advance the price of lead; and, notwithstanding the hopeful general expressions of the gentlemen who took part in it, we do not believe any thing will be accomplished. There was, in any case, no suggestion to have the organization become operative before next January.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We invite correspondence upon matters of interest to the industries of mining and metallurgy. Communications should invariably be accompanied with the name and address of the writer. Initials only will be published when so requested. All letters should be addressed to the MANAGING EDITOR. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

Gneiss-Dunyte Contacts of Corundum Hill, N. C.

EDITOR ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL:

SIR: The abstract of my paper on Gneiss-Dunyte Contacts (Bulletin No. 42, U. S. Geological Survey) in the JOURNAL for July 21st, contains one or two statements to which I desire to call attention.

In speaking of dunyte, the abstract calls it “a pale green magnesian rock, consisting almost entirely of chlorite”; the word “chlorite” is evidently a slip of the pen for “olivine.”

Again we find, “it is open to question as to whether the dunyte was anterior or posterior in formation to the gneiss and purely chloritic minerals. An igneous theory would be the simplest, yet the dunyte furnishing magnesian, and the gneiss aluminous solutions, would explain the observed alteration products satisfactorily.” Now this does not express, exactly, the statements of the original paper, for the dunyte is considered as posterior to the gneiss, by all who have written on the subject, though they differ as to its origin, whether igneous, sedimentary or chemical, and it was my purpose to show that the chemical reaction for the formation of corundum would be the same no matter which theory of origin might be adopted. In the “conclusion,” recalling what had been said before, the expression “or even vice versa” is used, meaning that these reactions would be unchanged even if the gneiss were considered as posterior to the dunyte.

In speaking of corundum crystals enveloping plates of chlorite, the abstract says: “While perfectly formed crystals of pure corundum are not uncommon, crystals simply with regular faces are more frequent, which were apparently formed in a solution, etc.” The words of my paper are: “While perfectly formed crystals of pure corundum are not uncommon, we frequently find crystals with regular faces but apparently formed in a solution having large numbers of small plates of chlorite or vermiculite floating in it, etc.”

Though the change of language here is slight, it concerns one of the important points in the discussion of a much disputed subject, and is therefore noted.

THOMAS M. CHATARD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1888.

Some “Alleged” Copper Mines at Butte, Montana.

EDITOR ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL:

SIR: History repeats itself. The success of the Boston & Montana Copper Company in disposing of its shares and the large profits made thereon, has brought forth schemes to organize companies under the name of copper and silver companies, on silver mines, pure and simple, only using the name “copper” to profit by the copper boom.

It is generally known that the most important and best copper mines at Butte City, Montana, are in the hands of the Anaconda, the Boston & Montana, and the Parrot companies.

A few more copper mines are scattered in the hands of individuals. It is claimed that some time ago A. T. Davis, of Butte, sold out his mines to a syndicate of Eastern people, who bring them out as the “Boston & Butte Copper and Silver Mining Company,” and endeavor to float the concern with a capital of two million dollars in stock and one million dollars in bonds, and I understand these are already being offered

in New York. Among the mines they own are the Belle of Butte, the Midnight, Josephine, Flag and La Plata—all silver mines—and the Greyrock, which is the only one carrying copper, and that in very low percentage, whatever the prospectus may say.

It is a fact that one of the most prominent Butte copper smelters, jointly with one of the ablest superintendents at Butte, leased the “Greyrock,” but it did not pay them to work, and they lost over \$10,000 on the lease. Therefore, it seems pretty sure that it will not pay to work this mine for copper, though they may find from time to time a specimen of rich copper to deceive the tenderfoot. I am not going into the merits of the silver mines, though I hardly believe they will ever pay two per cent interest on the invested capital of three million dollars.

Should it be of interest to your readers, I shall give you the history of some of these mines. For the present I simply wish to prevent investors being misled and to put them on their guard. Whatever they may get they certainly are not buying “copper” stocks.

The reputation of Butte stands too high and its copper mines are too well known all over the world to be abused by being made the hunting grounds of schemers and promoters.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

PETROLEUM AND ITS COGNATES: (*Das Erdöl und Seine Verwandten*). *The History, Physical and Chemical Constitution, Occurrence, Origin, Discovery and Extraction of Petroleum*. By HANS HOEFER, Professor at the Imperial Royal Mining Academy of Leoben, etc., etc. With Woodcuts in the Text. Being also a part of Volume I. of the *Hand-book of Chemical Technology*. Braunschweig: Vieweg & Son, 1888. 8vo, 179 pp. Index.

Nearly all of the installments constituting the eight volumes of the great “Handbook,” begun by Bolley and Birnbaum, and edited since their death by Professor Engler, of Carlsruhe, have now appeared. The portion of the first volume devoted to mineral oils is one of the last to be published; and the book before us is the first part of that. The second part is to be furnished (we have not yet heard of its publication) by Dr. Ferdinand Fischer, of Hanover, and will deal with the technical processes and apparatus of extracting, refining and testing petroleum, and of its various uses.

Professor Hoefler’s monograph is the first comprehensive and systematic summary of this subject which we have encountered. We think it is the first that has been written in any language, though numerous special treatises, exhibiting various degrees of accuracy and ability, have appeared during the last decade. It was high time that these local contributions should be combined, compared, criticised and utilized as the basis of a wider induction; and no one is better qualified for this task than Professor Hoefler. His book, appearing just after his previous contributions to professional literature have been recognized in the bestowal upon him of the rare distinction of honorary membership in the American Institute of Mining Engineers, constitutes a graceful and welcome response to his colleagues and friends in this country.

Let us observe at the outset that this treatise, apart from the theories it expounds, furnishes, in the abundant references which crowd its footnotes, an invaluable guide to the student. The evidences of the author’s exhaustive industry are on every page; and his views gain much weight from the wide and patient research, as well as personal observation, by which he has been enabled to gather facts from every quarter of the world, and thus to check the deductions of those who have reasoned from the conditions of single localities only.

The list of the countries in which the mineral oils are known to occur will surprise those who have made no thorough inquiry on the subject. It includes India, China, Japan, New Zealand, Roumania, Galicia, Hungary, Germany, Holstein, Alsace, France, Italy, and Trinidad, as well as the United States, Canada and Russia, which are the chief producing regions. It must be remembered that for solving the problems of the origin and occurrence of petroleum, the testimony of localities which have not hitherto furnished it in commercial quantities may be important—may, indeed, sometimes furnish clues which the very abundance of the product has elsewhere obliterated.

Passing over the description and history of the several oil-regions, and the discussion of the physical and chemical properties of petroleum, we come to the two chapters on its manner of occurrence and its probable origin. In the first of these, Professor Hoefler states again and supports with fresh evidence the “anticlinal” theory of which he is so prominent a representative. Qualified in statement as it now is, and reinforced with illustrations from other countries, it will perhaps be accepted, even by those who have heretofore opposed it. But in its accommodation it has lost something of definiteness and practical value. As formerly understood, at least by its adversaries, it was “very important, if true.” Now it may be more probably true, but it is less important. This criticism needs to be explained by a sketch of the theory as now set forth by Professor Hoefler.

According to his classification, an oil-deposit may be primary or secondary, according to its occurrence in the rocks where the oil was originally formed, or in other rocks into which it has passed. (If we understand him correctly, he does not reckon among possibilities the formation of gas in one rock, and its condensation as oil in another. But if he did, he would probably call the deposit “secondary,” because it did not occupy the stratum containing the organic remains which yielded the gas or oil.)

The primary deposits may, however, enlarge themselves by impregnating adjoining strata. The secondary deposits proper are fissure-fillings, surface-accumulations, impregnations of porous strata through fissures from the primary deposits, and small bituminous deposits in eruptive rocks. The author condemns with ridicule the ancient picture of a subterranean cave, with water at the bottom, oil in the middle and gas on top, which is still going the rounds as an ideal representation of the conditions of an oil-deposit. We believe it originated with Professor Andrews of Marietta, many years ago, when American petroleum was a mysterious novelty. Professor Hoefler says it has recently (1885) appeared in a French work by Fernand Hue, and thinks it is high time this “inherited woodcut” disappeared from literature.

Oil-deposits are found in fact to occupy certain belts or lines. At

least, this is the case in many or most districts. Such a line may be related, (1) to the strike of the oil-bearing strata; (2) to an anticlinal; (3) to a fault. Under the second head, after a summary of the views of Lesley, Carll, Wrigley, Ashburner, Chance, Orton, etc., our author states his conclusions as follows:

"A fold of the strata, whether anticlinal or synclinal, cannot as such be positively declared to be oil-bearing. A porous rock, to imbibe and yield the oil, is also necessary. Where this has been bent to a certain extent, it will be richest in oil; and the anticlinals of porous rocks are for the most part richer in oil than the synclinals."

The cause of this last phenomenon is explained by extending the explanation given by Chance for a similar fact as to natural gas, namely, that the synclinals are more likely to be occupied by water.

In other passages, Professor Hoefler shows that he attaches no further significance to an anticlinal than is involved in the probable alternation of rock-texture which it indicates. And from the vague term "to a certain extent," in the above quotation, we may fairly infer that it is not claimed that very gentle anticlinals—mere "ground swells," to adopt a nautical phrase—would count for much. Now it happens that in the most important districts of Pennsylvania, this is the precise character of the anticlinals. Consequently something else than the almost imperceptible reversal of dip must in those districts indicate the richer parts of the oil-deposits. In our judgment, Messrs. Carll and Ashburner were quite right in laying principal stress upon the local petrographic character of the oil-bearing stratum. Prof. Hoefler concedes that this is essential, but claims that anticlinals of a certain degree of flexure add another favorable condition. This is true, though indefinite. Indeed, we think that his argument on this head would be stronger if he laid more weight on Chance's suggestion about water, and urged that the occupation by

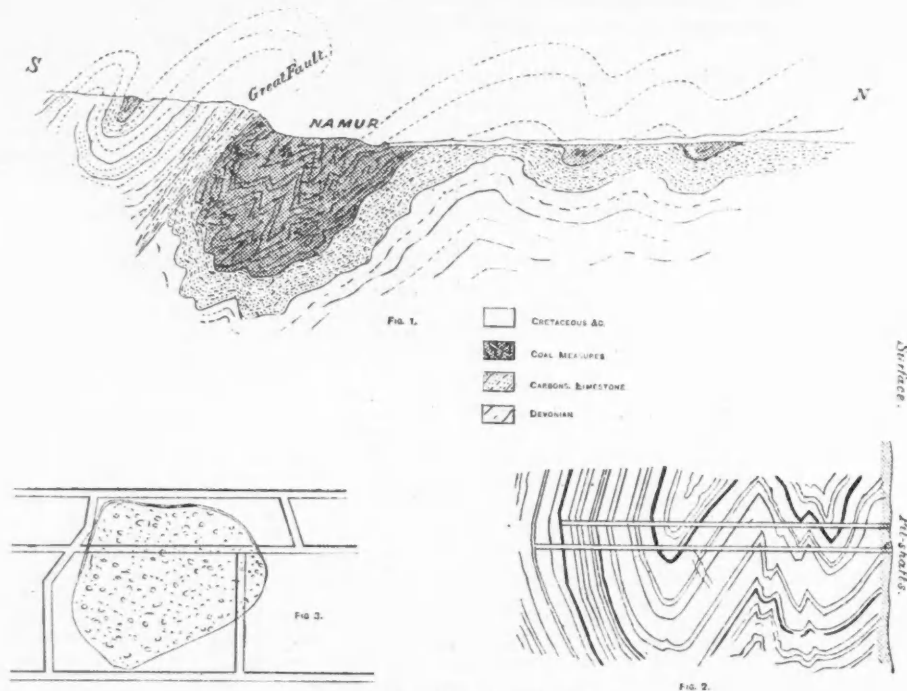
principal oil-fields, the Devonian shales—adding, however, in recent years, an alternative or even combined animal origin.

We regret that we cannot follow Prof. Hoefler through his admirable survey of this discussion. His own conclusion favors an exclusively animal origin; and this has received, since the book before us was written, an interesting and striking confirmation from chemical synthesis. We refer to the article by Dr. Engler in the *Berichte der deutschen chemischen Gesellschaft* for 1888, No. 9, page 1816, reporting that he has succeeded in producing from animal fats, etc., by low heat under pressure, 60 per cent of crude oil, nine tenths of which consists of hydrocarbons. These are the precise conditions postulated by Prof. Hoefler, and the demonstration of the possibility of such a process in nature is therefore complete.

Hasty and inadequate as our review of this important book has been, we are sure it will suffice to prove to all American geologists, who are concerned in its subject, the indispensable importance of studying carefully the work itself.

COAL MINING IN BELGIUM.*

The coal-fields of Belgium are very remarkable. Their coal seams are thin, awkward to work on account of the high angle at which they lie, and have to be exploited by sinkings of great depth and costly development. The coal measures are of true Carboniferous age, probably deposited at the same period with the British fields. In Belgium they are confined to a narrow strip of country, extending across the kingdom in a nearly east and west direction, in the shape of two or three elongated basins or troughs. Their length is about 105 miles, with a width varying from 3 or



BELGIAN COAL FIELDS.

water of the synclinal troughs would tend to drive the oil up towards the anticlinals. This is a matter relatively independent of the greater porosity of the rock on the saddles.

The trouble with the theory is that in our most important districts it is valueless as a practical guide. It does not explain the discontinuous deposits to which our geologists have given the non-committal but very descriptive name of "pools"; or rather it does not explain the gaps between them. On the other hand, this does not justify us in overlooking the array of evidence which goes to show that there is often, though not invariably, a connection between the localities of oil-deposits and some condition indicated by anticlinals, and the anticlinal theory may therefore be accepted as proposing a *vera causa*, though not a complete explanation or guide.

THE ORIGIN OF PETROLEUM.

Concerning the origin of the oil and of the deposits, Prof. Hoefler presents a masterly and, we are inclined to think, a conclusive statement. He reviews first the theories of an inorganic origin suggested by Berthelot (1866; reaction of carbonic acid on alkaline metals, forming, in the presence of hydrogen, acetylene, C_2H_2 , out of which oil and tarry products separated); Byasson (1871; mutual reactions of steam, sulphureted hydrogen, carbonic acid and iron at white heat); Mendelejeff (1877; reaction of water on glowing metallic carburets in the earth's interior); Cloez (1877 and 1878; reaction of sulphuric acid or even boiling water upon metallic carburets); also the earlier notions of Humboldt, Rozet, Protz and Thoré. The inadequacy of all these is clearly shown; and our author passes to consider the views of those who consider petroleum to be a condensed hydro-carbon gas, but do not undertake to explain the origin of the gas (Coquand, Hitchcock, Dumas, Rose, Bischof, Oehsenius, etc.). This, which is, as he justly says, only a half-explanation, brings him to the hypotheses of organic origin.

The first group of these theories ascribe the oil to plants or coal. American geologists and chemists have, we think, generally abandoned the coal, but adhered to the hypothesis of a vegetable origin—for our

10 miles. The extent of the Belgian coal-field has been estimated at 326 square miles, and at Mons, the total thickness of the coal measures is stated to be 6500 feet. They rest upon the Carboniferous limestone, which outcrops on both the north and south sides of the basins, and they are overlaid by the marls, chalk and gravel beds of the Mesozoic and Tertiary ages. There seem to be no representatives of the Permian rocks in Belgium, and the Triassic are not developed to any large extent. In the province of Hainaut are rocks of the Wealden and chalk formation, many of the shafts near Mons being sunk through these strata to reach the coal.

At the close of the coal period, says Professor Gosselet, an uptilting of the district occurred, and all the Paleozoic beds were inclined, folded, and often broken by faults, forcing the strata sideways, and crumpling the coal measures as seen in Fig. 1. Denudation has planed off the upper foldings, leaving only the lower, or synclines, in the form of pockets or basins. So great was the thrust or earth-movement that Devonian beds were actually forced over on top of the coal-measures, and shafts sunk at Liège have penetrated inverted rocks of the carboniferous limestone and Devonian series. The excessive squeezing and crumpling of the coal measures in the flanks of the Ardennes has altered the highly bituminous coals into "dry coal" and anthracite.

The coal-fields of Belgium contain a greater number of separate beds of coal than any other so far discovered in the world. There are as many as 160 seams known by name, 100 being recognized at Liège. They are very thin, and rapidly alternate with other strata. In one shaft, less than 300 feet deep, 500 different layers of shale, clay, coal, etc., being passed through, and when this is taken into account, together with the contortions of the strata, and the capping of wet beds of chalk and gravel, the ability of the Belgians to successfully compete with outsiders in the market, and yet earn a profit, proves that they possess high skill in the art of mining.

Belgian coals, especially from Mons, are classified into "Flénu."

* Abstract of a paper read before the British Society of Mining Students by W. S. Greasley.

"Charbon de forge," and "Charbon sec" or "maigre." The Flénu coal comes from the upper measures. It burns with a long flame, without coking, giving off gas at the rate of 11,650 cubic feet per ton. It is very free from sulphur, but its coke is small and soft. From lower down comes the Charbon de forge, a short flame, coking coal, yielding an excellent coke for iron furnaces. The lowest coal seams produce the hard, dry, slow-burning Charbon sec, largely employed for brick and lime burning. An average of analyses from ten seams of smokeless coal from the Liège basin, gave: Volatile matters, 14.27 per cent; carbon, 82.20 per cent; moisture, 0.76 per cent; ash, 2.77 per cent. A sample of anthracite gave percentages as follows: Carbon, 91.98; hydrogen, 3.92; oxygen and nitrogen, 3.16; ash, 0.94. Regnault obtained from a Flénu coal: Carbon, 84.67; hydrogen, 5.29; oxygen and nitrogen, 7.94; ash, 2.10. The coal from the Mons basin yields from 77 per cent to 80 per cent in coke; the Charleroi even as high as 85.58 per cent, while the Seraing coals give only 67 per cent, which, however, is still above the average in other countries.

The government reserves the coal lands in Belgium, but grants leases,

by steel wedges driven by striking machines balanced on a swivel. The drifts are 10 feet wide, by 9 feet high, and when driven by this method an advance of 8 feet is considered a good week's work.

METHODS OF MINING AND EARNINGS OF MINERS.

The seams having been thus cut by levels, level roads are run right and left on the strike of the various seams, and an upraise is made in the coal to the main level above for ventilation. The working faces are carried forward in a manner similar to overhand stoping. The faces consist of a series of overhanging steps (Fig. 1), each step about 6½ feet high. The coal is broken down by wedges, and sometimes the pressure of the confined gases is sufficient to bring it down after it has been partially "holed." The dirt bands in the seams are picked out and thrown into the goaf, together with bundles of sticks and brushwood, while the coal is sent down through chutes into the trams, to be drawn to the main shaft. In some cases, to avoid the jamming which will often occur in chutes, board troughs are laid on the débris under the steps, down which the coal slides.

An average miner in these very steeply inclined measures will advance during a shift a distance of five feet, in a three-foot seam, taking out the coal through a height of ten feet.

Smaller seams are worked by opening off short ranges of slightly stepped faces on either side of a tunnel which crosses the measures. The distance, in this case, between the main levels is about 60 yards. This is divided by two levels in the seam about 20 yards apart, and with about 20 yards of coal to the rise and the same to the deep, thus dividing each range of working places into three equal series of short steps, as shown in Fig. 2. Four miners work in each stall, the lowest one being farthest in advance.

A third method of working, called "épilage," consists in driving parallel levels with thirlings between them in the seams to the boundary, and then bringing the coal backwards to the shafts in a series of stalls, one in advance of the other.

The Belgian miners produce on an average three tons a day, but they are paid by the square meter, an average day's wage (women and children included) amounting to about 2.73 francs (56c.). The night shifts merely prepare for the active mining of the succeeding day, by filling in the empty spaces, cutting height for the roads leading to the faces, setting timbers, and laying rails for the trams.

VENTILATION, UNDERGROUND HAULAGE, AND SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS.

The laws relating to ventilation are very stringent. Each set of faces or stalls must have its own current of fresh air, which is conveyed up

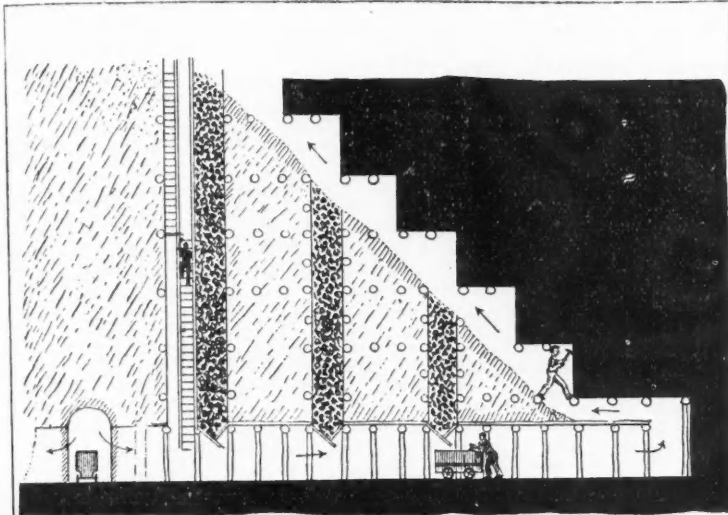


FIG. 1. SKETCH SHOWING SYSTEM "GRADING PERVERSES" OF WORKING THIN AND VERTICAL COAL-SEAMS, NEAR SERAING IN BELGIUM (LIÈGE COAL-BASIN).

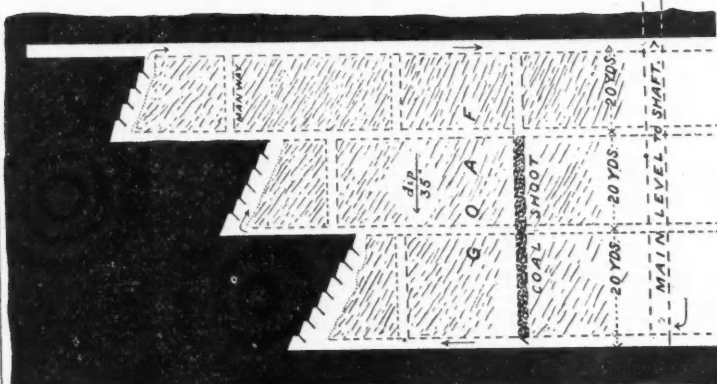
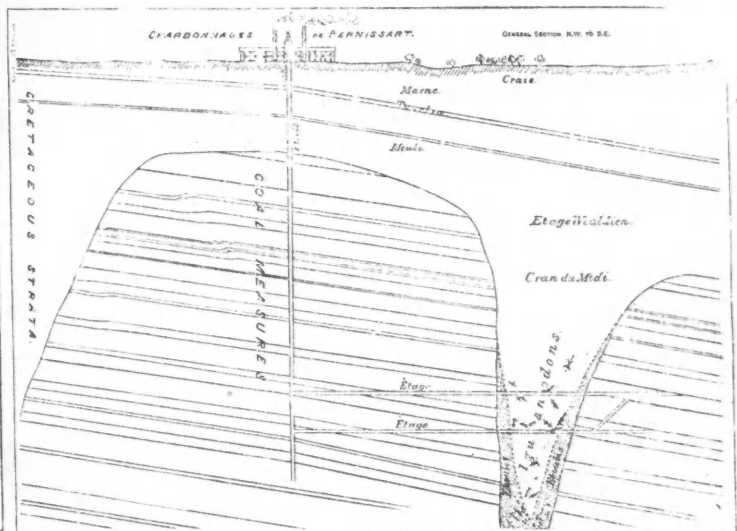


FIG. 2. SKETCH OF SYSTEM "TAILLES CHASSANTES" AS SEEN AT HASARD COLLIERY, NEAR LIÈGE, IN SEAMS DIPPING FROM 30°-40°.



BELGIAN COAL MEASURES, SHOWING "NATURAL PIT."

or "concessions," for various periods, to work a definite number of seams. In one case this limiting to certain seams is carried so far that the five upper ones belong to one company; the following fifteen to another, the next eight to still another, while the Société des Flénu Produits owns the minerals downward from the twenty-ninth seam.

One of the first difficulties besetting the Belgian coal miner is the vast quantity of water which pours into the shaft from the chalk and gravel beds. Various plans were tried in the past, some of which are still practiced. The Kind-Chandron process of lowering tubbing has been in use, and Poetsch's method of freezing the water in the rocks surrounding the shaft by the powerful freezing action of a solution of chloride of calcium, circulating through vertical pipes, has met with success.

The most recent method of lining circular shafts is that adopted at the Marihay collieries between Namur and Liège. The ordinary brick walling is replaced by wrought-iron rings and oak planking. From an oak framework at the top of the shaft is suspended a series of wrought-iron rings, which consist individually of four channel irons 5 inches high, 2½ inches wide, and ½ inch thick, connected together by cast-iron fish-plates fitting in the channel.

The rings are connected together by eight vertical bars of channel iron about 4 by 2 inches, turned up at each end and secured by bolts and nuts. The rings are 3 feet 3 inches apart for a depth of 127 meters and 3 feet below that, and the space between the rings is filled up with oak spiles 2 inches thick.

In driving out from the shaft the measures are cross-cut, to the several coal beds. In some of the mines, where there is great danger from gases, these cross-cuts and levels are driven without the use of explosives. Rows of holes are bored across the face of the drift to a depth of a meter (39.37 inches) and the rib between these holes is then broken out

through a ventilating shaft to the main return air course after serving a single gang of workmen. Air-ways must be separated by walls of sufficient thickness to resist an explosion, while air tubes and partitions are only allowed in temporary works. Boreholes in advance are compulsory when cavities containing fire-damp are suspected.

Underground haulage is done by engine power, although horses are used to some extent, and are considered more economical on roads of not more than 1000 yards in length. The endless chain system is used in many of the largest collieries, one at Hasard conveying tubs, which in Belgium are always made of iron or steel, through a tunnel 3500 yards in length. The chain weighs about 70 tons, and is carried on top of the tubs or trams, which, when loaded, weigh 14½ cwt. The total moving load is said to be 246 tons, which is driven by a massive pair of 100 horse-power, 25½-inch diameter and 3 foot 11 inch stroke horizontal steam engines, driving grip pulleys.

The surface arrangements at the Belgian mines are particularly interesting and worthy of imitation. Order and neatness prevail everywhere; bath-houses are provided for the miners; hospitals are maintained in case of accidents or the outbreak of epidemics, and unsightly accumulations of waste material are avoided. The shaft-houses are models of systematic arrangement, every thing being condensed into the least possible space, and all placed under one roof, even to the sheds for washing the coal, upon which final preparation of the product of the mines for market they bestow a great deal of attention.

INTERESTING GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES.

In working the mines in the provinces of Hainaut and Liège, some exceedingly interesting geological discoveries were made. A species of fault in the coal measures is known in Belgium as "puits naturel." These are no

mere dislocations of the strata, but are pits or pipe-like excavations, which frequently, but not always, extend up into the overlying marls and chalk formations. They are, as a rule, narrower toward the surface and widen downwards. A cross section of one, at a depth of 1800 feet, is shown in Fig. 3. They are filled with débris of coal, rock, shale, clay and sand, and often contain considerable water.

Their depth is unknown, only one having been found to come to an end upward in the coal measures. They never accompany a true fault or throw. Their sides are rugged, but no branches or off-shoots have been found. No evidence has ever been obtained to account for their origin, and all that can be said is that they probably were formed from below, not from the surface downward. Mingled with the debris in these pits are fossil remains in great abundance. The most remarkable of these are perfect skeletons of the iguanodon, an extinct reptile of mammoth size, attaining a length of 50 to 60 feet. In Fig. 3 is given a vertical section across the colliery of Bernissart, between Mons and Tournai, where one of these curious pits containing remains of the iguanodon is shown. Two perfect skeletons were, after great labor, reconstructed, and have been mounted in a huge glass case in the courtyard of the Royal Museum of Natural History at Brussels.

THE COST OF MAKING PIG-IRON IN THE SOUTH AND THE WEST.

Recent articles by Mr. E. C. Pechin, in the *Iron Trade Review*, call attention to some favored localities in the South and West for the production of pig-iron. We have already referred editorially to Mr. Pechin's remarks concerning Sheffield, Ala. We shall now summarize what he has to say about other points.

Until very recently, Anniston has been engaged in turning out 20,000 or 25,000 tons per year of "Woodstock" charcoal iron, but now two 75-foot x 17-foot coke furnaces have been erected, and it is for furnaces using this fuel that Mr. Pechin's estimates are made. The ores are found in the immediate vicinity. An average analysis gave metallic iron, 55.53 per cent; silica, 2.23; phosphorus, 0.05, though it is stated that the iron sometimes runs as high as 67 per cent, and the phosphorus occasionally 0.40. The pig made from this ore with charcoal fuel contains on an average about 0.08 phosphorus, one analysis showing 0.44. The coke will be supplied from Blockton in the Cahaba field, where a plant of 300 ovens has been erected. The coal seams worked there are 3½ feet and 5 feet thick respectively, and yield 1200 and 400 tons per day of coal, which is said to make an excellent coke, though analysis shows it to contain 4.508 per cent of volatile matter, indicating, as Mr. Pechin observes, faulty coking. When the new railroad is completed the coke will be carried 90 miles direct to Anniston, at an estimated charge of 75 cents per ton, bringing its cost up to \$2.75 per ton at the furnace.

With these figures the cost per ton of pig-iron at Anniston is estimated to be \$10.25, made up as follows:

2 tons of ore at \$1.75	\$3.50
1¼ " coke " 2.75	3.40
½ ton limestone at \$1.00	.50
Labor, \$1.75; supplies, .15; repairs, .50; sand, .10; water, .10; general expenses, .25	2.85
	<u>\$10.25</u>

Birmingham is more favorably situated for cheap coke than is Anniston, the mines and ovens being in the immediate vicinity of the city; for iron ore there is little choice between them. The ore-bed here is very thick, furnishing the soft ore near the outcrop, and below water level the hard, the composition being shown by the following analyses:

	Soft ore.	Hard ore.
Metallic iron	48.88	38.80
Silica	21.48	11.60
Alumina	4.33	0.20
Carbonate of lime	0.28	29.29

The supply of soft ore being limited to the outcrops, Mr. Pechin's estimates of the cost of iron in the Birmingham district are based on a 40 per cent ore. He believes that owing to faulty construction and careless management, no furnace in the district can show accounts covering a blast where the cost of iron is less than \$11.00 per ton, but he states that an "outside party" making long term contracts with responsible persons could make iron at \$10.15 per ton, costs distributed as follows:

2½ tons of ore at \$1.25	\$3.12½
1½ " coke at \$2.25	3.37½
½ " limestone at \$1.00	.50
Labor, \$2.00; repairs, .50; water, .15; sand, .10; supplies, .15; general expenses, .25	3.15
	<u>\$10.15</u>

Where a company owns the coal and iron mines, the estimated cost at Birmingham is given at \$9.20 per ton, as follows:

Two and a half tons of ore at \$1	\$2.50
One and three quarter tons of coke at \$2	3.50
One half ton of limestone at \$1	.50
Labor, \$1.75; repairs, .50; sand, .10; supplies, .15; general expenses, .20	2.70
	<u>\$9.20</u>

Mr. Pechin does not explain why a company owning its own mines should use one quarter ton more of coke per ton of iron than one which buys its coke. He states that he was informed that one company turned out its iron at a less cost even than that given above.

At Sheffield, owing to the greater distance from the mines, the cost per ton is greater than at Birmingham or Anniston; but this increase is, in a measure, compensated by the closer proximity of the Western markets. There are five furnaces built or building, though but one is now in blast. The ores used are brought a distance of about twenty-five miles from either Franklin Co., Ala., or Lawrence Co., Tenn., analyses showing nearly the same composition for each.

	Franklin County.	Lawrence County.
Water	11.361	10.903
Silica	10.840	15.300
Alumina, lime, magnesia, manganese.	4.840	5.647
Sulphuric acid	.015	.630
Phosphorus	.508	.507
Metallic iron	50.290	46.960

This ore is worth \$1.40 per ton on the car at the mine, or adding 25 cents for freight, \$1.65 at the furnace. The limestone is brought a distance of twenty miles and costs 75 cents laid down. No good coking coal is found in the neighborhood, the coke having to be brought about 85 miles to the furnaces at a charge of 70 cents, bringing its price up to \$2.70 per ton, delivered. With these figures the following estimate is made for making iron at Sheffield:

1½ tons of coke at \$2.70	\$4.05
2¼ " ore " 1.65	3.71
¾ " limestone at .80	.60
Labor, \$2; repairs, .50; supplies, .10; sand, .06; general expenses, .25	2.91
	<u>\$11.27</u>

This estimate is made for a furnace producing 30,000 to 40,000 tons per year. There might be a reduction in labor and general expenses, by having a larger plant under one management, and the fuel consumed might be lowered by the use of a better coke, all of which would slightly lessen the above estimate.

In a later communication Mr. Pechin adds to his estimates of cost in the South, figures from three of the leading iron centres of the West: Mahoning Valley, Cleveland and Chicago.

Non-Bessemer ores containing from 57 to 60 per cent of iron have been selling at Lake Erie ports for \$3.50 per ton. The freight rates to the Mahoning Valley (to Youngstown as a centre, 67 miles) are 70 cents, making the cost per ton of ore at the furnace \$4.20, or 7½ cents per unit of iron, 1¼ tons of Connellsville coke are used, and with the ore is mixed 80 per cent of mill cinder containing 50 per cent iron at \$2.50 per ton, or 5 cents per unit.

COST OF ONE TON OF PIG-IRON IN THE MAHONING VALLEY.

70 per cent of lake ore at 7½ cents per unit	\$5.07
30 " " mill cinder at 5 cents	1.50
1¼ tons of coke at \$2.50	3.13
¾ " limestone at .80	.60
Labor, \$1.25; repairs, .50; oil, etc., .15; general expenses, .25	2.15
	<u>\$12.47</u>
By using all ore, the additional cost	.68
	<u>\$13.13</u>

It is stated that better results may be obtained on the Cuyahoga River, at Cleveland, 58 per cent ore costing there \$3.60 per ton, or 6.2 cents per unit, and Connellsville coke, \$3; both delivered. No cinder is used here.

COST OF ONE TON OF ALL ORE PIG-IRON AT CLEVELAND.

100 units iron at 6.2 cents	\$6.20
1¼ tons of coke at \$3	3.75
¾ ton of limestone at \$1	.50
Labor, etc., as above	2.15
	<u>\$12.60</u>

Chicago gets cheaper ore, but coke is there \$1 per ton more than at Cleveland.

COST OF ONE TON OF PIG-IRON AT CHICAGO.

100 units iron, at 5.8c	\$5.80
1¼ tons of coke, at \$4	5.00
1¼ tons of limestone, at \$1	.50
Labor, etc., as above	2.15
	<u>\$13.45</u>

The following table shows the distribution of the principal items making up the cost of a ton of pig-iron, both South and West, in average values taken from the figures quoted above:

Ore	South.	West.
Coke and limestone	\$3.44	\$6.19
	4.14	4.49
Materials	\$7.58	\$10.68
Labor and supplies	2.97	2.15
	<u>\$10.55</u>	<u>\$12.83</u>

These values show that in the West a cheap ore is needed to compete with Southern irons, the cost for labor, limestone and coke being nearly the same in each case. Materials are \$3.10 less, and labor and supplies 82 cents more per ton in the South than the West. The lower cost of labor in the West (50 to 75 cents) is attributed to the better climate and superior character of the men to be obtained.

Mr. Pechin concludes his letter with some remarks which will bear repeating:

"If the cost accounts heretofore given are materially correct, the following conclusions seem to fairly follow:

That the Southern iron makers hold a certain territory absolutely, subject only to competition among themselves, either by reason of over-production, or the ability of certain makers to produce iron cheaper than others, and that their true policy is to develop to the largest possible extent the use of their raw material within this area; that another section is neutral ground, in which they must meet Western iron in a competition going more and more against them as their freight rates increase, or the prime cost of Western materials decline.

That the West must recognize that a new and most powerful competitor has come to stay, and that, in the future, so far as non-Bessemer irons are concerned, excessive royalties on ores must be reduced, that low rates of transportation from the mines to the furnaces must be permanently maintained, and that all available economies in mining and manufacturing must be practiced. In each section such prices may be established as will properly remunerate the maker, and yet be just and most attractive to consumers. The rapid natural increase in population will soon catch up with the present capacities for producing, and South and West will be profitably busy in supplying the wants of those properly dependent upon them."

A Gigantic Fossil.—Professor F. W. Cragin, of Washburn College, recently discovered at Downs, Osborne County, Kan., the petrified remains of a huge fossil. Professor Cragin pronounces it the most remarkable specimen found since 1877. The animal complete was a little over 16 feet in length. The jaws measure 3 feet 8 inches, the neck between 4 and 5 feet long, and the body about 9 feet long, and three or four feet through. It had immense teeth, about three inches in length. It had flippers quite similar to a seal's, and its feet, two in number, were short. It is plain that it was an aquatic animal of the reptilian age.

THE DRUMLUMMON GROUP OF VEINS AND THEIR MODE OF FORMATION.*

By Joshua E. Clayton, M.E.

The Drumlummon mining district is situated about eighteen miles north-westerly from Helena, Montana, and is about two and a half miles east of the Summit Ridge of the Rocky Mountain ranges. A small stream called Silver Creek has its source in a number of small ravines in the east flank of the summit that converge together in a basin of erosion about 1500 or 2000 feet N. W. of the "Drumlummon Group" of mines.

The central portion of the "Basin" is a friable, eruptive granite of a light gray color; showing small crystals of hornblende and black biotite mica. The high ridges surrounding this granite nucleus are, in most part, a slaty metamorphic schist and shales of the magnesian type or series, while the contact line between the eruptive and bedded rocks is exceedingly irregular and jagged. The general form of the granite mass is domelike, the flanks dipping outward from the center and underlying the surrounding bedded formations at greatly varying angles from the horizontal plane.

Along the southeast and east flank of the granite nucleus, where the Drumlummon mines are situated, the contact line dips very steep, in fact, is nearly vertical in places. The average underlie is apparently about the same as the underlie or dip of the Drumlummon lode.

As this easterly flank of the granite nucleus of upheaval is the only portion of the country-rock of any practical importance to the Montana Company, Limited, I will not trouble you with any details of other portions of the district.

There is no well defined or continuous line of contact between the granite and the flanking metamorphic beds. The two formations are interlocked by projecting spurs and dykes of granite that penetrate the bedded formations in greatly varying directions. The jagged edges and partially detached masses of the bedded country rock are inclosed in the flanks of the eruptive granite, in some instances penetrating a distance of 200 feet or more, showing irregular jagged terminations, just as angular stones may be enclosed in a bed of mud or cement.

The metamorphic bedded formations along this easterly flank of the granite have a general strike of S. E., N. W., and dip N. E., varying from 40 to 70 degrees below the horizon, while the general line of contact is S. 15 degrees to 20 degrees W. Hence the broken edges or ends of the beds abut against the granite at an obtuse angle of 60 to 70 degrees. These facts all show that the granitic mass was eruptive and plastic in its condition at the time it was forced up into the rents made in the metamorphic schists and slaty shales, thus enabling the intrusive plastic mass to conform to all the irregularities of the broken edges of the beds, to fill all the rents and fissures along the flanks of the break, and to inclose masses and fragments of the slaty beds along the broken lines of contact.

I do not mean by the word "plastic" that the eruptive mass was in a state of igneous fusion, but that it was in a hot, pasty condition, like a stiff mortar, and probably containing water in combination somewhat like the trachytic hot mud that sometimes flows from volcanic vents. That the eruptive mass was not in a state of igneous fusion is evident from the fact that the inclosed fragments of slaty schist retained their form without any signs of fusion, even on sharp edges. The only alterations I have observed are chemical changes and combinations of the constituent minerals, and, in some cases, an evident interchange of minerals with the granitic mass inclosing it or in contact with it.

By this process of chemical interchange between the eruptive mass and the ruptured beds, the two diverse formations became welded together so firmly that there is no absolute line of parting or contact cleavage between them.

The bedded formations flanking the granitic core of upheaval have been greatly disturbed and changed from their original nearly horizontal position. They have been tilted and partially folded into anticlinal and synclinal curves, incident to the lateral pressure that produced great continental uplifts and the development of mountain ranges along the longitudinal axes of upheaval. These general causes of disturbance and change of level are always modified and complicated to a greater or less extent by local causes, such as the rupturing and faulting of the folded beds, and the issue of vast bodies of "volcanic" rock, namely, basalt, trachyte, porphyry, and eruptive or porphyritic granite. In the special case under consideration, the local disturbances of the bedded rocks flanking the granite are very extensive and complicated. An instance in point is seen in the position of the beds inclosing the southeast and east flank of the granite where the Drumlummon group of mining properties is situated. All along that portion of the ridge south of Silver Creek, starting just below the 60-stamp mill, and going southerly along the line or trend of the Drumlummon lode, the bedded rocks are tilted up at a high angle with a dip of 40 to 70 degrees towards the northeast, and a strike or course about southeast, while the general line of contact is nearly parallel to the strike of the lode, or S. 15 degrees to 20 degrees W., thus bringing the beds at an oblique angle endwise against the granite; whereas, north of Silver Creek the beds lie nearly flat, with a short anticlinal fold or buckle near the contact with the granite.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BEDDED ROCKS.

The stratigraphical characteristics of the metamorphic beds of slaty shales and schists are very simple, being a succession of thinly bedded deposits, aggregating several thousand feet in thickness. The predominating materials are silica, clay, and carbonate of magnesia in the bedding planes of sedimentation. In its original state it was a succession and alternation of magnesian clay shales and siliceous schists. During the long process of consolidation and chemical changes, usually termed "metamorphism," the constituent minerals became individualized to some extent, so as to give distinctive colors to the predominating minerals, thus presenting alternating bands of quartzite, clay shale and magnesian schists, the clay shale bands showing dark and purplish colors, the magnesian beds dark greenish seams of serpentine, and the quartzose schist showing various shades of gray and bluish quartzite, giving the whole series a beautifully banded appearance. On weathered surfaces, nearly all these beds change to light gray and creamy tints, owing, in

most part, to the large amount of the magnesian minerals contained in the bedded structures. At and near their contact with the eruptive granite, still further chemical changes have taken place, such as the development of garnetiferous masses and an impure serpentine, with seams of quartz and spar in fracture cleavages. Where these beds were very siliceous, the chemical changes have made them remarkably hard and tough and much more difficult to drill and break than pure quartz or ordinary compact quartzite would be.

The spurs and dykes that radiate from the granite into the adjoining bedded formations are rarely identical in structure and crystallization with the central mass. As a rule, the crystals are coarser, the hornblende crystals are larger and more abundant, in some cases giving them the appearance of true syenite. Such is the appearance of the dyke on the 400-ft. level in the hanging-wall of the Drumlummon lode at Shaft No. 1. A similar dyke is seen on the surface further south, penetrating the slaty beds southeasterly, in the "Marble Heart" lode claim. Other dykes and spurs are composed mainly of coarse feldspar and quartz, with occasional large crystals of hornblende and a little silvery white mica. In addition to these, there are a few narrow dykes of hornblende trap, of brownish and greenish black colors, consisting in most part of very finely interlocked crystals of hornblende, inclosing small grains of feldspar and quartz. I also observed small globules of bluish translucent agate in two or more of these black dykes.

The physical and mineralogical characteristics of the geological formations of the district, as given above, include all the prominent features relating to the structure of the country in which the Drumlummon group of mines occur.

VEIN FISSURE SYSTEM.

There are three distinct vein systems in the district, that are well marked and easily recognizable.

First—The "North Star" or "Armitage" lode system has a course or strike of about N. 50 degrees E., and S. 50 degrees W., and a nearly vertical dip. This vein or lode is the strongest and most persistent of this series, and cuts through the granite nucleus intersecting the course of the Drumlummon lode at a point about 400 feet north of the main working shaft (No. 1) on the 400-foot level, and continuing northeasterly across the Castletown lode and beyond into the metamorphic bedded formations a distance of 1000 feet or more. The North Star is older than the Drumlummon and Castletown lodes, and is cut by them. They being much larger lodes than the North Star, and of later date, the point of intersection was not seen in driving the levels north from the main shaft. In fact, the exact point of intersection was not known until recently. A level has been driven on the North Star from the 400-foot tunnel to the same level north on the Drumlummon. Just how far the North Star lode or vein has been shifted or "faulted" where it is cut by the Drumlummon is not yet known with certainty, neither do we know the exact point of its intersection with the Castletown lode. Near the mouth of a short tunnel, known as "Attwood's Prospect tunnel No. 2," a vein was cut that looks very much like the North Star. It is three or four feet wide, and stands nearly vertical, showing a slight underlie to the south. (I will refer to this again further on.)

There are a few other vein fissures in the granite nucleus, both north and south of the North Star, having approximately the same strike, but they are all small and unimportant.

Second—The next system of parallel vein fissures is confined, with a few exceptions, to the granite central mass, and has a strike or course of about N. 45 degrees to N. 60 degrees W., and variable south dip from 40 to 60 degrees below the horizon.

Nearly all of this network of small quartz veins in the granite are gold producing to some extent. Small bunches of good ore have been found occasionally, but a majority of them are barren.

Third—The third system of vein fissures, including the Drumlummon, has a general strike nearly north and south magnetic, and the veins are confined almost entirely to the east and west flanks of the granite. These north and south flanking lodes appear to be later in origin than those of the other systems above named, as they cut the others at all points of intersection.

I will remark here that the network of interlacing veins, or at least a large majority of them, seen in the granite nucleus of the district, can hardly be called true fissure veins. They look more like "gash veins," or segregated veins formed in cracks, due to cooling, rather than to true fissuring or faulting of the country rock. True fissures are caused by great changes of level, by upheavals, or by subsidences, due to profound dynamic forces that culminated at the close of geological epochs. By far the larger number of the great mines in the Rocky Mountain ranges, and in the entire Pacific slope of the American continent, were produced by the great geological changes and volcanic forces that closed the Tertiary age. This was, in my opinion, the mineralizing period of the Rocky Mountains, and the west slope of the continent. Whatever the geological age of the country may be at any one mining district, the general facts as I have observed them show that the vein fissuring was produced during, and principally at, the close of the Tertiary age. At that time the whole western flank of the American continent was in a state of volcanic disturbance. The entire drainage system of the West was obliterated, the whole continental divide was broken up, large areas sank down, and other areas were elevated. In short, the arch of the continent was crushed by the unequal lateral pressure (the western flank of the anticlinal curve of the earth's crust being much shorter and steeper than the eastern one). Then a complete readjustment of the rock masses took place. During these vast geological changes, and for long ages following them, the escape of interior heat up through the rents and fissures made was on too grand a scale to be fully comprehended by men of ordinary caliber. Geysers like those at Yellowstone Park were common throughout the disturbed region, and every fissure that penetrated deep enough to tap the source of heat was a vent for the escape of hot gases and thermal mineralized solutions. Hence only those fissures that penetrated to the source of the metals, and also had a line of escape to the surface, could have the hot mineralized solutions passing up through them. All other fissures in any given district that did not penetrate to the source of the metals, or that were capped over too deeply to allow an escape of the pent-up hot gases, were left barren, or so partially mineralized as to be practically

* Extracts from a report dated June 12th, 1888, made by Joshua E. Clayton to the Montana Company, Ltd., of London.

worthless. Hence a very few lodes in a locality carry all the wealth of the district. Even in the great lodes, the wealth is often confined to a few great shoots or sections, while the remaining portions are practically barren. Those portions of metal-bearing lodes that become "choked" by the shifting of the walls, causing "pinches," or by the crowding in of soft shales, or the intrusion of porphyry clays, or by other local causes, will be barren, while the ore-bodies are formed only in those spaces along the fissure where there was a more or less free escape of hot gases and mineralized thermal waters to the surface.

According to this theory of the mineralization of great "true fissures," the conditions precedent are: *First*, a fissure deep enough to tap the heated zone of the earth's crust; *second*, a shifting of the walls sufficiently to leave openings for the escape of hot gas and mineralized hot solutions up through them.

Under such conditions, the hot gases and waters will rise towards the surface along the lines of least resistance, depositing silica or other gangue stone and ores of the metals along the lines of circulation only, while the "choked" spaces remain barren.

If one builds a fire-place and chimney, or flue, however crooked it may be when the fire is started, the equilibrium of the air is destroyed, the gases of combustion escape upwards through the flue, drawing into it the air surrounding its base, thus establishing a continuous circulation so long as the fire is kept active. The result is that a part of the elements of combustion are deposited on the inner walls of the flue in the form of soot.

The foregoing presents my view of the principles and conditions necessary to the formation of great "fissure lodes," such as the Drum-lummon, and other lodes of its class.

In the following discussion of the physical characteristics of the Drum-lummon lode I shall endeavor to show the practical application of the mechanical and chemical principles above indicated.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

New Use for Aluminum.—Aluminum is coming into use as a material for dental plates. It is nearly as light as rubber, but little more than one eighth the weight of gold; has neither odor nor taste; is not affected by the elements of food or the secretions of the mouth, and costs, bulk for bulk, about one-sixth the present price of silver.

Tinning by Simple Immersion.—Argentine is a name given to tin precipitated by galvanic action from its solution. This material is usually obtained by immersing plates of zinc in a solution of tin containing 6 grammes (about 90 grains) of the metal to the liter (0.8 quart). In this way tin scrap can be utilized. To apply the argentine according to M. P. Marino's process, a bath is prepared from argentine and acid tartrate of potash rendered soluble by boric acid. Pyrophosphate of soda, chloride of ammonium, or caustic soda may be substituted for the acid tartrate. The bath being prepared, the objects to be coated are plunged therein, first having been suitably pickled and scoured, and they may be subjected to the action of an electric current. But a simple immersion is enough. The bath for this must be brought to ebullition, and objects of copper or brass, or coated therewith, may be immersed in it.

The Proposed Submarine Tunnel Between Denmark and Sweden.—The report of the Royal Swedish Commissioners, who have been examining M. Deland's application for a concession to the Swedish Government, winds up with the conclusion that a submarine railway between Sealand and Sconia would no doubt insure several advantages to the international traffic, but that, as the building of it would require a very considerable capital, and the paying of the interest on the cost for a long series of years would necessitate heavy subventions from both the Danish and the Swedish governments, in addition to the profits of the traffic, which would be inadequate for this purpose, the proposal for this new way of communication be abandoned for the present; that should ever, under altered circumstances, the want or the desirability of a submarine railway come into prominence, it ought to be built on account of the State. We referred to this tunnel in the ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL of August 21st and October 23d, 1886.

French Coal, Iron and Steel Production in 1887.—The following figures in metric tons of 2204 pounds are taken from the report of the Minister of Public Works. The production of coal was 21,403,049 metric tons (470,662 being lignite), a gain of 1,493,155 tons for the year.

The pig-iron output increased 64,277 tons, being 1,580,851 tons, of which all but 23,410 was coke iron. The yield of wrought-iron was 774,260 tons (increase, 7,704 tons), and, divided according to the process: Puddled, 619,609; refined by charcoal, 16,195; reheating old iron and scrap, 138,456. Of this product there were converted into rails, 319 tons; plates, 105,896; merchant and special grades, 668,045.

The output of steel was 450,856 tons (increase, 23,267), divided as follows: Bessemer, 288,028 (decrease, 12,137); Siemens-Martin, 126,755 (increase, 25,349); puddle and forge, 14,299 (increase, 4,392); cement steel, 809 (decrease, 703); crucible, 7,174 (increase, 790); reheating old steel, 13,861 (increase, 5,576). This was utilized in making 202,482 tons of rails (decrease, 52,168), 75,306 tons of plates, and 173,063 tons of merchant and special steel.

A Naphtha Refuse Burning Furnace.—A naphtha refuse burning furnace, acting both as a calciner and smelting furnace, has recently been introduced at the Redabeksky Copper Smelting Works of Messrs. Siemens Bros. The ore is charged at the end of the flue near the chimney, and gradually raked down against the flame, and thus calcined. It is then drawn, and the smelting charge made up to contain: Calcined ore, 3611.30 pounds; acid slag from previous process, 15 to 30 per cent; iron ore, 5 to 10 per cent; limestone, 5 per cent. About 5400 pounds of this mixture are introduced in the furnace and melted down in three hours, when about half as much as the first charge is added, and so on for every thirty or forty minutes, until the hearth is full. The regulus is tapped off twice a day. This furnace in a thirty-three days' run smelted 2,076,911 pounds of seven per cent ore, consuming 408,835 pounds of naphtha refuse, at \$10.52 per ton, and yielded 810,737 pounds of regulus, containing 25 per cent of copper; or to produce 2000 pounds of regulus required 1008 pounds of refuse, costing \$5.32. This is said to work 3.5 times faster than the ordinary ore furnace, and at the above works to be cheaper than when wood is used.

Rolling Stock for Sharp Railway Curves.—The London Engineer says: Colonel de Bange has proposed a new arrangement of wheels for facilitating the running over sharp curves, so important for railways in mountainous districts. The axles are fixed, and the wheels turn on axle journals of such a shape that, whilst resting on the wheels through the interposition of a cushion, they admit of the wheels turning on a vertical axis which is in a line with the point of contact with the rail. The cushion is furnished with a cylindrical projection which, fitting into a recess in the flat base of the axle, serves as a pivot, enabling the cushion to follow the slight horizontal rotation of the wheel while attached to the axle by two bands. By this arrangement the wheel always assumes a position tangential to the rail; and by combining this with a longitudinal play of the axles, a vehicle with any number of axles could run round a very sharp curve. This arrangement, moreover, enables the full amount of adhesion to be given to locomotives, combined with a long wheel-base, a great gain for engines designed to run on lines with sharp curves, which often have steep gradients as well. A method of coupling the wheels, whilst leaving them free to adapt themselves to the curves, has been adapted to a small eight-wheeled locomotive, weighing ten tons, and tried in the workshops of the Cail Company in Paris, the axles being arranged for running round curves of only 40 feet radius. A rigid triangular connecting rod is attached to the driving shaft, and guided by two cranks, so that its motion is parallel to the frame; it carries a projecting bar opposite each wheel, inserted into a swivel table fastened to the wheel by a spring, so that the connecting rod guides the wheel in whatever position it may be. The present rigid rolling stock could be readily transformed into the proposed system.

[This arrangement might possibly apply to the desired sharp curves for a loop line on the Brooklyn suspension bridge.—ED. E. AND M. J.]

Cost of Excavating and Handling Rock.—The "Charcoal Iron Workers" publishes a paper on the cost of excavating and handling rock, originally presented by Mr. Roger Rigly before the Western Pennsylvania Mining Institute, of which the following is a summary. The average weight of a cubic yard of sandstone or conglomerate in place is given as 1.8 tons, and of compact granite, gneiss, limestone, or marble, 2 tons, or an average of 1.9 tons, or 4256 pounds. A cubic yard when broken up ready for removal increases about four fifths in bulk, and $\frac{1}{3}$ of a cubic yard, or 177 pounds, is a wheelbarrow load. Experience shows that with wages at \$1 per day of 10 hours, 45 cents per cubic yard is a sufficient allowance for loosening hard rock. Soft shales and allied rocks may be loosened by pick and plough at a cost of 20 cents to 30 cents per cubic yard. The quarrying of ordinary hard rock requires from $\frac{1}{4}$ pound to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound and sometimes $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of powder per cubic yard. Drilling with a churn driller costs from 12 to 18 cents per foot of hole bored. Upon these data Mr. Rigly estimates the total cost, per cubic yard of rock in place, for loosening and removing by wheelbarrow (labor assumed at \$1 per day of 10 hours), as follows: When distance removed is 25 feet, total cost = \$0.537; when 50 feet, \$0.549; when 100 feet, \$0.573; when 200 feet, \$0.622; when 500 feet, \$0.768; when 1000 feet, \$1.011; and when 1800 feet, \$1.401. This is exclusive of contractor's profit.

When labor is \$1.25 per day, add 25 per cent to the cost prices given; when \$1.50 per day, add 50 per cent, and so on. In hauling by cart, the cost of loading, which will be about 8 cents per cubic yard of rock in place, and the additional expense of maintaining the road must be added. Allowing, then, 851 lbs. as a cart-load, the total cost per cubic yard is estimated, when removed 25 feet, at \$0.596; when 50 feet, \$0.599; when 100 feet, \$0.605; when 200 feet, \$0.617; when 500 feet, \$0.655; when 1000 feet, \$0.717; and when 1800 feet, \$0.94. [These estimates of Mr. Rigly are to be taken with much allowance for variations in the kind of rock, its hardness and physical construction, and even then will be counted as applying to limited conditions; but, so far as they go, may be useful to young engineers.—ED. E. AND M. J.]

BOOKS RECEIVED.

In sending books for notice, will publishers, for their own sake and for that of book buyers, give the retail price! These notices do not supersede review in another part of the Journal.]

The Civil Engineers' Pocket-Book. Thirteenth Edition. Thirty-second Thousand. By John C. Trautwine, C.E. Revised by John C. Trautwine, Jr., C.E., Philadelphia. Published by John Wiley & Sons, New York, and E. & F. Spon, London. 1888. Pages 866, and Index. Illustrated. Price, \$5.00.

DIVIDENDS PAID BY MINING COMPANIES DURING JULY AND FROM JANUARY 1st, 1888.

NAME OF COMPANY.	Paid in July.	Since Jan. 1.	NAME OF COMPANY.	Paid in July.	Since Jan. 1.
Atlantic, Mich. ....	.....	60,000	Mammoth, Utah. ....	.....	20,000
Alturas, Idaho. ....	.....	112,500	Mary Murphy, Colo. ....	.....	35,000
Calumet & Hecla, Mich.	500,000	1,000,000	Montana Lt., Mont. ....	.....	330,000
Carlisle, N. M. ....	.....	50,000	Morning Star, Colo. ....	.....	25,000
Central, Mich. ....	.....	40,000	Mt. Diablo, Nev.	10,000	30,000
Colo. Cent., Colo. ....	.....	41,000	N. Belle Isle, Nev. ....	.....	200,000
Confidence, Nev.	49,920	149,760	Ontario, Utah.	75,000	525,000
Cons. Cal. & Va., Nev.	108,000	756,000	Original, Mont. ....	.....	3,000
Daly, Utah.	37,500	300,000	Osceola, Mich. ....	.....	100,000
Dunkin, Colo. ....	.....	80,000	Parrott, Mont.	36,000	72,000
Eureka, Nev. ....	.....	87,500	Pittsburg, Cal. ....	.....	29,850
Franklin, Mich.	80,000	120,000	Plymouth Cons., Cal. ....	.....	80,000
Garfield, Nev. ....	.....	25,000	Quicksilver, Cal., Pref.	64,500	236,500
Golconda, L. Iso. ....	.....	120,000	Quincy, Mich. ....	.....	160,000
Granite, Idaho. ....	.....	10,000	Sherwood, Mo. ....	.....	3,000
Granite Mountain, Mont.	100,000	1,200,000	Sierra Buttes, Idaho. ....	.....	15,312
Hale & Norcross, Nev.	56,000	168,000	Sierra Nevada, Idaho. ....	.....	10,000
H. eta Cons., Mont.	15,000	105,000	Silver Mt. of L. V., N. M. ....	.....	25,000
Homestake, Dak.	25,000	175,000	Standard, Cal. ....	.....	50,000
Hope, Mont. ....	.....	50,000	Swansea, Colo. ....	.....	3,000
Hubert, Colo.	4,000	64,000	Tamarack, Mich.	120,000	240,000
Idaho, Cal.	23,250	209,250	Viola Lt., Idaho. ....	.....	37,500
Iron Silver, Colo.	100,000	200,000			
Jay Gould, Mont. ....	.....	172,000	Total.	1,404,170	7,545,172
Little Chief, Colo. ....	.....	20,000			

THE METALLURGY OF STEEL.*

By Henry M. Howe.

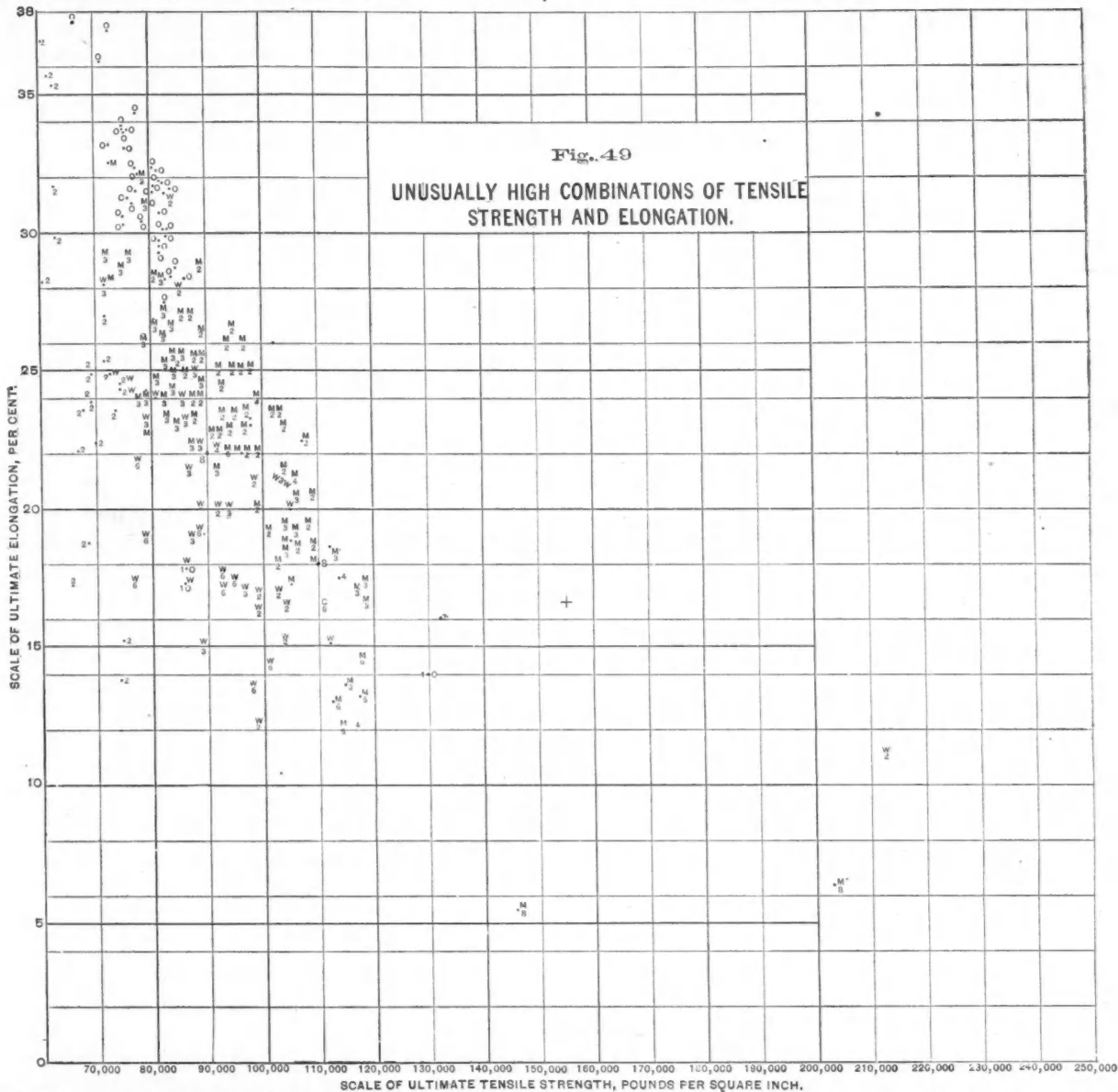
(Continued from page 48.)

In the case of small ingots several of the methods which we have considered might be expected to completely prevent both pipes and blowholes.

In the case of large ingots it should be comparatively easy to prevent blowholes in the layers which solidify first: but it is far from clear that any of these methods should be able to prevent central cavities, or that the compression which they effect should even compensate for the increased proportion of gas in the solidifying metal, due

mit any pressure whatever to them through an enormous thickness of outer and resistance metal.

In comparing Whitworth's compression with forging it is to be remembered that, while the former has advantages in acting before blowholes form instead of attempting to efface those already created, and in being applied at a temperature which is higher and hence more favorable to the welding of cavities than is permissible in forging, yet it labors under the disadvantage of having to compress the whole cross-section of the ingot at once, attacking it in the path of greatest resistance. Forging under a powerful hydraulic press has the great advantage of concen-



The numerals indicate the length in inches in which the percentage of elongation is taken: the letters indicate the origin of the steel, thus: C = Cambria, Johnstown, Pa. M = Midvale, Nicetown, Pa. O = Otis, Cleveland, Ohio. W = Whitworth. + = Unforged castings. Most of the Cambria, Midvale and Otis cases are from the reports of the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army, from 1877 to 1886 inclusive.

to the immediately preceding liquid compression. To make the center of a large ingot compact, the compression must follow up the contraction till the very central portions have cooled far below their freezing point, which means greatly distorting an enormous mass of already solidified and more or less rigid metal.

The pressure required at the cavities themselves in order to close them is probably slight: the difficulty is to trans-

trating its pressure on a small portion of the metal, attacking it piecemeal. It is by no means clear a priori that this may not outweigh its disadvantage of working at a lower temperature.

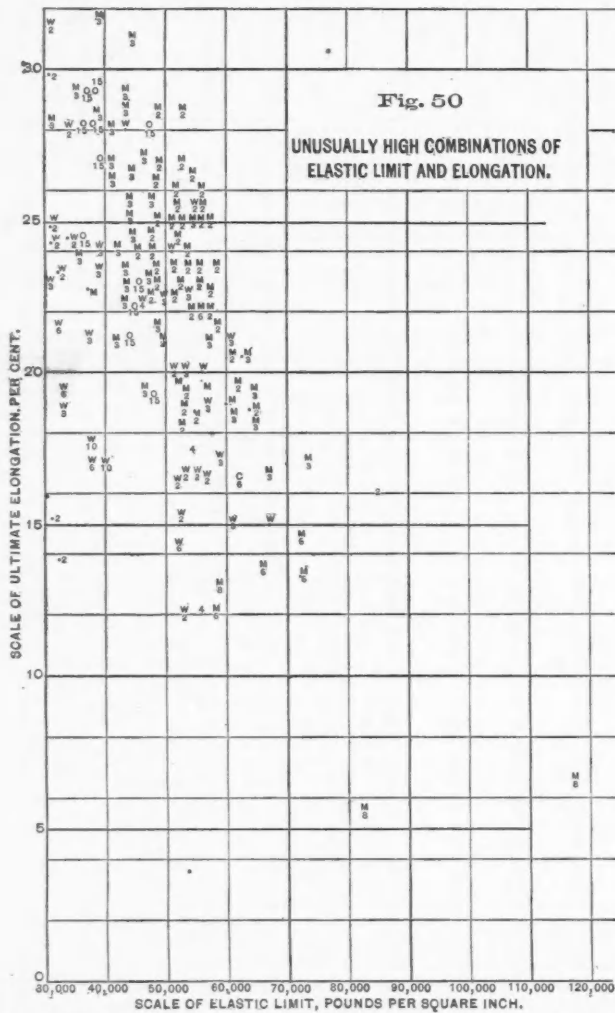
I see no reason to anticipate that liquid compression should benefit the metal otherwise than by preventing the formation of cavities. Indeed one would hardly expect that it could produce the kneading and rubbing together of the particles which forging gives, and which is generally thought to be extremely beneficial, since this implies motion of the particles on each other. It should, however, tend to prevent external cracks.

Evidence of the Effects of Compression.—The only two methods which have stood the test of experience are:—the

* Copyright by the Scientific Publishing Company, 1887.
 a Walrand states (Van Nostrand Eng. Mag., XXXIII., p. 362, 1885) that he finds that a pressure of from 74 to 88 pounds per square inch always greatly lessens the blowholes: and Chernoff states (Rev. Univ., 2d ser., VII., p. 149, 1880) that but slight pressure suffices to arrest the escape of gas. The extreme violence with which gas escaped from previously tranquil steel in Bessemer's experiment (8 188 C.) on lowering the pressure by some 12 to 13 pounds per square inch certainly suggests that a small increase of pressure should materially reduce the escape of gas.

of Whitworth and of Williams. The evidence of the effect of the latter has already been stated: that of the effect of Whitworth's compression is hardly more conclusive than the a priori considerations.

It shows us exactly what we had good reasons to expect, to wit, that compression wholly eliminates cavities from small ingots and diminishes them in large ones, but no more. An ingot about 12 inches in diameter and 33 inches long shown by Whitworth at Paris, cut in two lengthwise and polished, was free from cavities as far as could be judged by examining it through the show-case. I have seen pieces of about this size cut from common compressed rail ingots, containing about 0.32% of carbon, 0.08% of silicon and 1.25% of manganese, which were almost absolutely free from defects.



The numerals indicate the length in inches in which the percentage of elongation is taken: the letters indicate the origin of the steel, thus: C = Cambria, Johnstown, Pa. M = Midvale, Nicetown, Pa. O = Otis, Cleveland, O. W = Whitworth. + = Unforged castings. Most of the Cambria, Midvale and Otis cases are from the reports of the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army, from 1877 to 1886 inclusive.

It is reported that his compression shortens large ingots by 12.5%, which certainly implies that it greatly diminishes their cavities, but not that it eliminates them completely. It is further stated his compression has been successfully applied only to pieces of simple form, and that even these are subsequently forged.

I know no evidence that his compressed ingots are freer from cavities than steel cast without compression is after it has been forged with suitable apparatus, *i. e.* rolls and hammers for small pieces, hydraulic presses for large ones. I here except the sinking-head portion of uncompressed steel.

Liquid compression probably does not increase the density: Percy finds the specific gravity of liquid-compressed steel identical with that of similar steel uncompressed.^a

^a Journ. Iron and St. Inst., 1885, I., p. 29.

Nor do I find any evidence that Whitworth's compression benefits the properties of steel otherwise than by diminishing cavities. We have plenty of vehement assertions on one side and on the other: but the experienced metallurgist, who to his sorrow knows the difficulty of tracing the causal relation, will receive them cautiously till the nature of their supporting evidence is made clear.

Members of the United States Gun Foundry Board of 1883 saw Whitworth's compressing apparatus in actual use. From the board's report, which commends Whitworth's procedure most highly,^b one might infer that it meant to indorse liquid compression as such. But his procedure consists of two wholly distinct operations, 1, liquid compression, 2, forging under the hydraulic press after solidification. I questioned a member of the board,^c whose name carries certainly as much weight as that of any of his associates. From his reply I gather that the board was convinced (1) that Whitworth's steel excelled all others and (2) that the action of the hydraulic forging press was far more beneficial to large masses than that of the hammer: but that it did not intend to indorse liquid compression specially, though impressed by Whitworth's conviction that it was valuable. It is possible that they weighed philoprogenitiveness, the inventor's natural parental bias, too lightly.

Indeed, one could hardly know that the admirable qualities of Whitworth's steel were at all due to liquid compression, without comparing a great number of his hydraulic-forged pieces which had been compressed while molten with others similar but not compressed. If such a comparison has ever been made, its results have not, I believe, been offered to the public, nor, I am very confident, to the board. Judging from its report and from the answers of two of its members to my inquiries, it seems to me pretty clear that the evidence which the board obtained was of such a nature that, while it might suggest, it could not begin to prove that liquid compression benefits large masses which are to be forged afterwards under the hydraulic press, otherwise than by diminishing the pipe and preventing external cracks: but we may reasonably doubt whether these advantages would repay the cost of a liquid compression apparatus.

The hold which a long-used brand and a famous name like Whitworth's have on the imagination, and the difficulty of substituting for a familiar material a new one which, though of equal or even greater fitness, differs slightly from it, suffice to explain the frequent belief of gun-makers in the unapproachable quality of Whitworth's steel.^d

General Benét, commenting on the properties of some steel hoops from Midvale, remarks that they "are fully equal to the highest claimed by Whitworth & Co. for the characteristics of their steel hoops."^e

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

NOTE.—The publishers of the ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL will thank the readers of this article if they will promptly call attention to any inaccuracies they may observe in it.

^b Proc. U. S. Naval Inst., X., pp. 633, 637, 642. Also Rept. U. S. Gun Foundry B'd.

^c Lt. Col. Henry L. Abbot, Private Communications, Feb. 14th and 29th, 1888.

^d Hotchkiss, the famous gun-maker, stated in August, 1884, that, though forced by government to try Schneider steel, it is very different from (meaning apparently very inferior to) Whitworth steel. Yet in November, 1885, Hotchkiss & Co. state that they use Schneider steel extensively and that it possesses the high qualities needed for guns. Report of Select Committee on Ordnance and War Ships, p. 443.

^e Rept. Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army, 1884, p. 12.

PERSONAL.

Mr. J. Hays Hammond, mining engineer, has gone to Mexico on professional business.

Mr. A. H. Shipman, inventor of the Shipman oil engine, died July 30th, in Geneva, N. Y.

Mr. J. H. Collins, F. G. S., of the firm of J. H. Collins & Son, of England, is about to visit the United States and Mexico.

Mr. James D. Hague, Mining Engineer of New York, has gone to New Mexico and California to examine mining property.

Gen. James C. Duane, the recently retired chief of the engineer corps of the United States army, has been appointed aqueduct commissioner by Mayor Hewitt of New York. The other appointees as directors were: Francis M. Scott, Assistant Corporation Counsel; John J. Tucker, a prominent builder, and ex-Assemblyman Walter Howe, a prominent and wealthy lawyer.

Mr. H. C. Dickenson has resigned his position as assayer with the St. Louis & Zacatecas Ore Company, Mexico. He will go to Ouray, Colo., where he will be interested in a mining enterprise.

Dr. W. P. Headden, for the past five years Professor of Chemistry and Geology in the Denver University, Colo., has been elected Professor of Chemistry in the School of Mines of at Rapid City, Dak.

Mr. A. J. Kenyon died at Oswego, N. Y., on July 27th. Mr. Kenyon entered the navy from New York in September, 1861, as a Third Assistant Engineer, and after passing through the intermediate grades, reached that of Chief Engineer in October, 1884. He had seen over twenty years of sea service.

Dr. Winslow S. Pierce died July 29th, in Brooklyn, aged sixty-nine years. Dr. Pierce went with the pioneers of 1849 to California, where he remained for some years, later taking up his residence in Indianapolis, where he devoted himself largely to the development of the iron and coal industries of Indiana, and was instrumental in building rolling mills and established the first blast-furnace in that state.

Prof. Albert D. Hager died July 29th, at Chicago, from the effects of an accidental overdose of morphine. Prof. Hager was born at Chester, Vt., in 1817. He learned the carpenter's trade when a young man, but acquired a taste for geological studies and devoted all his leisure time thereto. He was, in 1856, commissioned Assistant State Naturalist of Vermont, and in 1877 became Secretary and Librarian of the Chicago Historical Society, a position which he filled until last year.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Messrs. Hall Brothers & Co., Louisville, Ky., have been appointed sole agents for the sale of the "De Bardeleben" brand of pig-iron.

The Rock nitro-glycerine factory, Lima, Ohio, was blown up by an explosion of 800 pounds of dynamite, set on fire by tramps July 29th.

The Lebanon Manufacturing Company, Lebanon, Pa., has been awarded the contract for 20,000 tons of castings for the new sugar refinery of Claus Spreckles at Philadelphia.

The Franconia Iron Company, of New Hampshire, to which we referred in our issue of June 9th, has passed into new hands. A new railroad is to be built and the mines worked.

A revised list shows the loss by the burning of the Lead Works, at Salem, Mass., to have been \$30,000, and the insurance \$66,000. In our issue June 23d we referred to the fire at these works.

The Thomson-Houston International Company is sending to South America an incandescent lighting plant to be placed in a mining establishment in the heart of the Andes, 14,700 feet above the sea level.

It is stated that a syndicate is about to establish a steel plant and wire-mill at Pueblo, Colo. Steel forgings of all kinds, miners' tools, merchants' steel, etc. A site for the plant will be donated by Pueblo people.

The Glendale, Mo., Zinc Works are moderately busy. They operate not only the original Glendale Zinc Works plant, but the old Carondelet Zinc Works as well, separated from the former by merely the width of a street.

The Western Steel Company has stopped operations in all parts of the Vulcan Steel Works, at Carondelet, Mo. It is stated that the owners of the works, the St. Louis Ore and Steel Company, will reopen them to business early in October.

The new coke-ovens of the Sloss Iron and Steel Company at Coalburg, Ala., are nearly all completed. Of the sixty-three that are being constructed, forty are entirely finished and the remaining twenty-three will be completed in a few days. None of the new ovens have gone into blast yet.

The Colorado Coal and Iron Company, of Pueblo, Colo., paid off its employes at the steel-works last week. It was the biggest pay-roll in the history of the company for several years. Every department of these works is now running at full blast and the force is being constantly increased.

At the blast-furnace of the Ashland Iron and Steel Company, Ashland, Wis., quite an amount of work

is now being done in remedying, making a new hearth and linings and several changes that are requiring considerable time to complete. Work will probably not commence again until the middle of August.

According to reports the National Association of Wrought Iron Pipe Manufacturers has collapsed. Early in last May the incompatibility of ideas among the members reached such fervor that the 25 firms comprising the association quietly withdrew studiously keeping their dissolution a profound secret until now.

The Parke & Lacy Machine Company has been incorporated by Messrs. B. T. Lacy, J. S. Engs, T. V. Walter, S. Gordon, and W. A. Campbell. The object is to deal in all kinds of machinery for a term of fifty years, with the head office located in Portland, Oregon. The capital stock is fixed at \$200,000, shares \$100 each.

It is stated that for some weeks claims against Graff, Bennett & Co. have been bought up for one third of their value. The sale of the rolling-mill at Millvale, Pa., will occur on the 9th inst. It is rumored that the mill will be bought by Mr. Rhodes, of the Pennsylvania Tube Works, he having a large claim against the company.

A strike began July 31st in every department of the nail works at Bellefonte, Pa., in consequence of a reduction of 57 cents a day in the wages of the firemen. The mills have been closed. It is stated that the Knights of Labor have given notice to the strikers to stand for the old scale of wages and that they will be sustained by the order.

Messrs. Stearns, Rogers & Co. have purchased the plant of the former Colorado Machinery Company, Pueblo, Colo., and will commence work upon a big order for machinery for the Philadelphia Smelting Company as soon as the plant can be got in order. This fall the plant is to be enlarged and a new and extensive building erected.

The Nova Scotia Steel Company, with headquarters at New Glasgow, N. S., is about to change its name to the "Nova Scotia Steel and Forge Company (Limited)," and to increase the capital stock from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000, so as to enable the company to manufacture steel and iron in all its branches, and articles consisting of iron or steel, in whole or part.

The Tamarack-Osceola Copper Manufacturing Company, Dollar Bay, Mich., will erect two wire mills. There will be two buildings, 100x50 feet each, joined together at the ends, with an open court between. The capacity of the wire mills will be 10,000 pounds of fine wire per day of ten hours, or 20,000 pounds when working day and night.

The Greenville, Pa., Rolling Mill, owned by P. L. Kimberly & Co., and employing about 400 men, was leased by George Stage, of Greenville, when Mr. Kimberly's other mills were shut down. It was kept running until recently, when it was closed. Repairs are now in progress, and it is thought that arrangements will be made so that the mill may be started this month.

There is nothing in any detail of mining operations, with the exception of the operation of a percussion drill, that has not been worked out at Richmond. The intermittent calls for energy of pumps, hoists, milling and tramway service in a large mining plant, finds a parallel every hour in the experience of the Richmond Street Railway. The Sprague Electric Railway and Motor Company has now equipped or is equipping 22 street railways of various lengths.

In far transmission of energy in mining districts, the cost at the point of application of competing power is the factor that determines the use of power from a distance. In the experience of the Sprague Electric Motor Company at Richmond, Va., which Mr. Whitney, President of the New Consolidated Street Railway Company of Boston says "was one of the hardest contests for victory that was ever fought in the industrial field," that company solved the questions pertaining to the economical and practicable transmission of energy for 20 miles.

The Emmens Chemical and Explosive Company is completing its arrangements for the manufacture of its new high explosive, emmensite, for experimental purposes, at the laboratory and range at Harrison, N. Y. They have placed in position an engine and boiler, together with steam kettles for mixing and distilling, and a revolving pulverizer of somewhat novel arrangement, the pulverizing being done by means of a ball in a revolving cylinder. By this means the powder is granulated to any desired size.

The Pittsburg Steel Casting Company has produced at its works at Pittsburg, Pa., a cast-steel shell, the first ever made in the United States, which indicates entire success. The shells are conical in shape, 6 inches in diameter at the largest end, and tapering to a point 2 1/4 inches, including the opening at which the cap is placed. It has an elongation of 2 1/2 inches, and weighs 95 pounds, requiring 5 pounds of powder for a charge, making the total weight 100 pounds. The Pittsburg Steel Casting Company has received an experimental order for 500 shells, which will be followed by one of 2000.

The Potters' Flint and Spar Pulverizing Company has been incorporated at Trenton, N. J., by Erastus Wiman, Lawrence S. Mott, William Burgess, and John A. Campbell. The principal part of the business will be located in Trenton, and a branch in New York City. The objects are to grind, pulverized and prepare

flint, spar and other materials for the use of potters, manufacturers and others, the purchase of raw materials and the sale of the products, to sell and license and patent machine known as the Cyclone pulverizer for the preparation of potters' materials throughout the United States. The capital stock is \$100,000, shares \$100 each.

A number, of prominent Southern capitalists and manufacturers met at Nashville, Tenn., on July 31st, to discuss the location there of an International Mineral and Metallic Exposition, towards which suitable federal and state aid might be secured in addition to private subscriptions, for the special display of minerals and metals, both in their raw and manufactured forms; together with the machinery employed in their production, and such other exhibits as would naturally be pertinent thereto. After discussion it was resolved to hold the exhibition in Nashville in 1890. A committee was appointed to organize the enterprise, secure a charter, and put it on a practical basis.

The Sawyer-Man Electric Company, commercial agent of the Consolidated Electric Light Company, has issued a circular, wherein it appeals to the lamp consumers for the adoption of a uniform lamp socket, and state that such innovation would benefit them thereafter in reducing the cost of incandescent lamps by simplifying the mode of manufacture. The company offers liberal inducements to bring this about, and, at the same time, announces a reduction in the prices of its lamps. The company evidently means to capture the lamp trade of its many competitors and has increased its business to such an extent that it is compelled to make a large addition to its steam plant and to reorganize many of its departments.

The Land and Improvement Company, of Bessemer, Ala., has granted 100 acres of land to the Bessemer Iron and Steel Company, composed of Mr. H. F. de Bardeleben and a number of Southern capitalists. The company had proposed erecting three large coke fuel furnaces at Trussville. This plant will now be located at Bessemer. Fifty acres were also given the Little Bell Iron Company, which has already broken ground for the construction of a large charcoal furnace. The De Bardeleben Iron and Steel Company also propose building two large furnaces alongside its present plant of two furnaces. When these plans have all been carried out, Bessemer will have seven large coke fuel furnaces and one charcoal furnace.

Alfred C. Chapin, Mayor of the City of Brooklyn, N. Y., Thomas B. Rutan, Chairman of the Memorial Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic of Brooklyn, and John McCarty, President of the Board of Aldermen, invite architects and others to submit designs for a Soldiers and Sailors' Monument to be erected in Brooklyn. The design considered most meritorious, if accepted and retained, shall receive a prize of \$1000. The design considered next most meritorious, if accepted and retained, shall receive a prize of \$500. All designs not thus accepted and retained will be returned to those submitting them. The designs must be filed in the office of the Mayor of the city of Brooklyn on or before September 1, 1888.

The Westinghouse Brake Company has practically absorbed the American Brake Company of St. Louis. The American manufactures a steam driving wheel brake for engines, with reverse action to that of that of the Westinghouse, and railroads have already adopted it. The American Company also holds a patented improvement of the air brake to facilitate the exhaust of air and to hasten the departure of trains. Under the new arrangement the American Company will confine itself to the manufacture of steam brakes, the Westinghouse taking the improved air brake. The American is capitalized at \$2,000,000, on which the Westinghouse Company guarantees 5 per cent. On the \$60,000 bonds issued by the American Company to secure working capital the Westinghouse Company guarantees 6 per cent.

A company organized with the following officers, President, Clarence Richards; Vice-President, Carl Van Bronk; Treasurer, Edward Records; Expert, H. M. Ryan, all of Los Angeles, Cal., has purchased two thousand acres of ore land in Iron County, Utah, and is arranging plans for furnaces and a rolling mill near Iron Springs. The company will erect two furnaces of 80 tons each, also with puddling furnaces and rolling mill. The specialty of manufacture will be heavy iron pipe of all kinds and steel rails. Arrangements are now making for the purchase of machinery and other necessary supplies. Building will begin in from five to seven weeks. The works are expected to be in operation by next June, and when they are running to the intended full capacity, 1600 men will be employed.

The Submarine and Torpedo Explosives Company, Limited, has been organized in England with a capital of £30,000, shares £1 each, for the purpose of acquiring the rights in certain new inventions and appliances of a formidable and destructive character, for coast and harbor defense, viz: (1) Ground mine case containing charge. (2) Land mines. (3) Electro-mechanical mines. (4) Floating mines. (5) Combined circuit, closer relay, and all the rights with regard to such inventions, both in the British Isles and throughout the world. It is not intended to employ the funds of the company in the erection of a factory or in the manufacture of these appliances. All orders for the apparatus will be submitted to the competition of established firms, the company supplying the gun cotton charges. The outlay at present contemplated would, it is stated, be limited to the cost of a warehouse or showroom, and of full size sets of ap-

mines of the neighborhood paid largely, but the district has been entirely deserted. A few Chinamen remained behind and worked over the dirt for a fourth time.

WEST VIRGINIA.
KANAWHA COUNTY.

COALDALE COAL COMPANY.—This company has been organized to operate coal, coke, iron, etc., at Handley. It owns 40,000 acres of gas, steam, splint, coking and cannel coal, and expect to do an extensive business in the near future.

WISCONSIN.
GOGEBIC DISTRICT.

BOURNE MINING COMPANY.—The property of this company was recently sold at sheriff's sale, and was bid in by one, F. A. Bates, acting as agent for his wife. The price paid was about \$6000. About eighteen months ago the stock sold for some \$7 per share.

WYOMING.
LARAMIE COUNTY.

MICHIGAN COPPER MINING COMPANY.—This company, in Muskrat Cañon, near Rawhide Buttes, has contracted to furnish the smelter at Fairbanks with fifty tons of ore daily. The company has also sold a large quantity of ore in bulk to the smelter. The smelter is to haul the ore from the mines, a distance of twenty-five miles.

FOREIGN MINING NEWS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

PRESENT AND FUTURE COAL OUTPUT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A correspondent writes us as follows:
Owing to two serious explosions last year and the beginning of this year at Vancouver Coal Company's and R. Dunsmuir & Son's collieries, Vancouver Island, the stoppage and partial disorganization has most seriously affected the output and profits for some months. It is impossible to learn what the future "output" in these local centers of mining will amount to for the remainder of 1888. The Vancouver Coal Company held its annual meeting in London last month, and the explosion of last year increased the outstanding debt from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Considering the time this company has been developing, and has as yet declared no dividend, while the market value of the stock in London stands at £3 to £4 for the £10 share, it does not say much for the management, and contrasts unfavorably with the local competitors (R. Dunsmuir & Sons), who have realized enormously on their workings, and have paid large profits from the first, though they suffered an equal loss in an explosion five months ago.

For the last seven months cargo lots of coal have been selling in San Francisco at \$12 per ton—which can be raised, shipped, and delivered at \$4½ to \$4¾ per ton—and the average for 1887 ruled at \$7½ per ton, so that a large profit has been made by good and efficient handling.

Where, perhaps, the mistake has been made by the Vancouver Coal Company is in the conservative and grasping method of endeavoring to secure large tracts of coal land, and spending the profits and the capital in explorations speculatively in and around the islands. Whether that system has been judicious management for the present shareholders remains to be seen. There is an offer to bond this company's property. A change may soon be expected, and if under another directory and manager, the results may be more fortunate to the shareholders. For the sake of English investors, we hope it is to be a remunerative concern like its neighbors. It should be profitable. The following "output of coal" for the year 1887 is taken from the report of the Inspector of mines, showing comparative wages paid to white men and Chinese.

	Output ending Dec. 31, 1887. Tons.	No. of hands.			Wages per day.	
		Boys.	Whites.	Chinese.	Whites.	Chinese.
Vancouver Coal Co., Nanaimo.....	138,712	10	388	220	\$2 to \$3¼	\$1 to \$1¼
R. Dunsmuir & Son, Wellington Colliery..	239,217	None	308	258	2 to 3¾	1 to 1¼
R. D. Chandler, of San Francisco, East Wellington Colliery..	35,431	1	83	47	2 to 3	1 to 1¼

There are 149 Chinese out of the 253 employed at Dunsmuir's collieries by the miners, who have more interest than the proprietors, and get more work out of the Chinese than white laborers, for like work. There are no Chinese employed in the mines at the above since the last explosion, at the beginning of this year. The result is greatly in favor of real estate and trade. Since there are 150 fewer Chinese laborers in Nanaimo, lodging in private houses or hotels is not always easy to obtain. Before the Chinese occupied fewer houses, spent less money and dealt chiefly with Chinese tradesmen, who in time, by thrift and perseverance, accumulate wealth and remitted their savings to China. There are but few Chinese as top laborers now employed at the Vancouver Coal Company's mines, and this causes great satisfaction.

The output for the next twelve months and for the year 1888 will be maintained as given above, and with the developments now soon to be in working order at Comox, there will not be any great increase of the output. There does not seem any immediate prospect of cheap coal or of overproduction. The house coal trade will soon begin to move for coming winter. All the numerous developments and explorations, amongst which some are very extensive in Washington Territory, and a recent discovery of semi-anthracite on the Skagit River with magnetic iron ore, will only tend to urge on discovery and enterprise on the coast which a few years may lead to great manufacturing pursuits.

While Seattle and Tacoma will double their output for 1888, British Columbia is not going to increase any more this year than last. The production on the Island for the last 4 years was:

Year.	Output. Tons.	Exported chiefly to San Francisco. Tons.
1884.....	394,070	306,478
1885.....	365,596	237,797
1886.....	326,636	249,205
1887.....	413,360	334,839

English and Scotch shippers will not consign coal specially, but only small lots to help to load ships outward bound for California direct; the distance between Australia and San Francisco is too far to seriously affect remunerative developments of Washington Territory or B. C. coal mining. There is consequently a safe and lasting investment in coal lands when bought at reasonable prices—not otherwise.

CANADA.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

MANUFACTURING MINING COMPANY.—Manganese mining is being prosecuted with considerable success by this company at St. Martins.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Capt. N. D. Moore, who first developed the Gogebic mines in Michigan, has located in Kingston and is busily engaged in locating, prospecting and purchasing iron and other mineral property in that section. A company of capitalists from Chicago and Milwaukee will work the mines with the probability, if they prove profitable, of establishing smelting works at Kingston. Natural gas has been found at Port Colborne, Canada (the entrance of the Lake Erie end of the Welland Canal). The Dominion Government has been asked to make experiments to ascertain the extent of the find.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

The asbestos mines of the Asbestos Packing Company, situated in the townships of Thetford and Coleraine, have been sold to Bell's Asbestos Company, Limited, recently formed in London with a capital of £200,000. The properties are valuable ones, producing excellent quality of asbestos. The output for the present year will probably reach from 1000 to 1200 tons of superior quality of No. 1 crude and 400 to 500 tons of waste crude. A large shipment of the most improved asbestos machinery has arrived from England, and is expected to be in full operation early in August. The works of the new company at Thetford are to be under the management of Mr. Thomas Sheridan, who has for so many years so successfully operated the properties of the Boston Asbestos Company.

HARVEY HILL.—The copper mines in Leeds are being more systematically worked, and are yielding a fair quantity of first-class ore, some of it assaying 70 per cent metallic copper with a good proportion of silver. English experts who examined the mines during the past month, say that they are well pleased with the appearance of the property. The property is to be worked on a large scale.

SCOTTISH ASBESTOS COMPANY.—The new crushing and cobbing machinery erected by this company is now in complete working order, and a test on an extensive scale is to be made. If successful, similar machinery will be put up at the Thetford mines. All the large dumps there will then be worked over, and it is thought that a very large quantity of asbestos, which at present does not pay to cob by hand, will be reclaimed.

ENGLAND.

Reports dated the 18th ult. state that for the first time for many years a general strike amongst Cornish miners is in progress. The underground men at Wheal Bassett having refused the terms offered them, they are, together their wives, in the streets of Redruth. The miners' executive claim that the men are willing to work, but that their desire is that they shall not receive reduced wages.

INDIA.

PUNJAB & ORIENTAL OIL COMPANY.—The Secretary of State has confirmed and sanctioned the agreement already announced, made by the Government of India with Mr. J. D. Noble, representing the syndicate of Canadian capitalists, in the matter of the Rawal Pindi petroleum deposits. Under this agreement exclusive right is granted to Mr. Noble for three years to bore for oil in the Punjab. If successful in finding it he will be granted the option of selecting five square blocks of land at different points, containing ten thousand acres each. The surface of the area is not to be interfered with, save where wells have to be sunk. The government incur no expense, but receive 5 per cent. of all crude earth oil obtained, this serving as a sort of land revenue. The concession will be worked by a limited company already formed, bearing the name of the Punjab & Oriental Oil Company, with a capital of 2½ lakhs in Rs. 100 shares. One of the principal features of the agreement is that the original holders of stock cannot assign or sell their

shares to outsiders without the consent of the government. This will insure the enterprise being kept in the hands of the practical men who have now started it.

MEXICO.

J. P. Witherow, the well-known engineer of Pittsburgh, Pa., has about closed the contract for the erection of an immense steel and iron plant at Sabinos, Mex. The plant will consist of two blast-furnaces, a Bessemer rail and nail plan mill, and structural iron works. Sabinos is a small town in the heart of a mineral country, where coal and iron ore abound. It is about equally distant from the towns of Eagle Pass and El Paso. The entire structure will be made of iron, and will be shipped ready for building from Pittsburgh. The financial backers of the new project are English, American and Mexican capitalists. Eugene Kelly, of New York, is a large stockholder; Patricio Milmo, of the City of Mexico, is also largely interested.

A company has been organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, for the development of tin mines, about 10 miles from Durango. Among those interested are George I. Whitney, Junius A. McCormick, Walter Kelley, George A. Thurston, George Williams, of St. Louis, and some others, most of the capital coming from Pittsburgh.

Our special correspondent at the City of Mexico has recently visited professionally many of the new as well as the old mining fields of Mexico, and will keep our readers advised on such matters as are of value. The following notes will be read with interest:

CATORCE.—The near approach of the Mexican National Railroad to this fine camp has roused up the rather dormant mining spirit among its miners, and they are getting to work again in several old mines and in some new ones. The great drawback to work in this camp has been the scarcity of combustible, which was palm wood and roots, brought from many miles away. Coal will soon be used here, brought from the Sabinos mines on the railroad. In anticipation of the increasing output of this camp an ore buying company from Laredo, Texas, has established an agency here, which will do its part in the future prosperity of the camp. In fact a great deal of the activity and success which has lately been displayed in Mexico is due to the fact that the miners, nearly everywhere, have been able to promptly dispose of their ores at fair prices to foreign purchasers.

ZACATECAS.—The greatest activity exists in this important mining center. Mills and concentrators are all disposing of the ore in handsome shape. A new milling and concentrating plant is in course of erection on the west side of the railroad near the station. Several thousand miners are constantly at work, and the city is increasing in population and size. The Prodigio, San Francisco, Javier and Jaquecas mines are all improving in the quality and output of ore, and the first mine is expected to have a brilliant record within the next few months. The Asturias and Bote mines are in bonanza, and the new gold vein, the Nuevo Bote, is attracting much attention for the richness of its ores. Many new mines are being denounced.

SABINAL.—In this new camp, situated in the north-western part of the State of Chihuahua, to the west of the Mexican Central Railroad, the Plancha de Plata mine is favored with a wonderful bonanza from which some tons of ore have been extracted, which assay five or six thousand ounces to the ton. Mr. J. R. Reynolds, a colored miner, who at one time operated in New Mexico, is raising considerable quantities of pay ore out of his mine in this district, Chihuahua. In other parts of the State, outside of the camp mentioned above, I hear of several mines that are doing very well. The Nica Mining Company, a Mexican concern, has a concession of one hundred square miles in the Nica range, fifty miles from Santa Rosalia, and is developing it rapidly. From the Dios to Guile mines and the Descubridora property they are raising a car-load per day of carbonate lead ores, bearing sixty ounces of silver per ton. The president of the company is now the mayor of Santa Rosalia, and is one of the most enterprising Mexicans on the frontier.

PACHUCA.—The Santa Gertrudis Mining Company continues to pay two dividends monthly from the output of low-grade ores. The bonds are worth \$750, the par value being \$100. The La Luz Pachuquilla mine is driving a cross-cut to strike a big ore-body which is supposed to be right ahead. The San Genaro mine has discovered this week an ore-body five feet wide and of good quality. The condition of the Cueva Santa mine is highly favorable. The assays from the ore-body recently discovered run \$500, \$100, and \$50 per ton in silver and gold, and the mass of ore is said to be three feet thick. At the Progreso Hacienda, Mr. Haro, the superintendent, is trying a new method for the working raw of ores, that have hitherto been roasted, which is said to have given splendid results. I will give details of this later on. Most of the mills here are on the patio system, but several Americans are investing in mines here, and are putting in stamp and pau mills which are finding also much favor among the Mexicans.

MEXICO.—A contract has been entered into by the Ministry of Public Works with some Mexican parties, for the working of mines at San Carlos, Central District, State of Tamaulipas. A contract has also been made by the same ministry with D. Juan Bustamante, for the working of mines within the boundaries of his extensive ranch property, El Salado, situated on the line of the Mexican National Railroad, and extending into the states of San Luis Potosi, Nueve Leon, Coahuila and Zacatecas.

As a new feature of commerce in this city I may mention that the Coahuila and Alamos Coal Company

CURRENT PRICES.

CHEMICALS.

Table of chemical prices including Sulphur, Alum, Ammonia, Arsenic, Bromine, Cement, China Clay, Chrome Yellow, Cobalt, Copper, Ferric Chloride, Gypsum, Iodine, Kaolin, Lead, Lime Acetate, Litharge, Magnesite, Manganese, Mercuric Chloride, Mineral Wool, Mica, Phosphate Rock, Phosphorus, Plumbago, Potassium, Pumice Stone, Pyrites, Quartz, Rotten Stone, Salt, Soda Ash, and Strontium.

Table of various metals and alloys including Sulphur-Roll, Flour, Crude Brimstone, Tale, Vermillion, Vitriol, Zinc Oxide, and Building Material like Bricks and Front bricks.

THE RARER METALS.

Table of rarer metals including Aluminum, Arsenic, Barium, Bismuth, Cadmium, Calcium, Cesium, Chromium, Cobalt, Didymium, Erbium, Gallium, Glucinum, Iridium, Lanthanum, Lithium, Magnesium, Manganese, Molybdenum, Niobium, Osmium, Platinum, Potassium, Rhodium, Ruthenium, Rubidium, Selenium, Sodium, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Thallium, Titanium, Thorium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Yttrium, and Zirconium.

METALS.

Table of various metal types and grades including Aluminum, Copper, Lead, Tin, Zinc, and Antimony.

IRON AND STEEL.

Table of iron and steel products including American Pig-Iron, Scotch Pig-Iron, Bessemer Pig-Iron, and Spiegeleisen.

Table of steel products including Steel Blooms, Steel Billets, Steel Nail Slabs, Steel Wire Rods, Structural Iron and Steel, Cast Iron, and Merchant Steel.

Louisville Prices.

Table of Louisville prices for items like Hot Blast Irons, So. Coke, and Missouri Charcoal.

Pittsburg Prices.

Table of Pittsburg prices for items like Coke or Bituminous Pig, Foundry No. 1, and Charcoal Pig.

Philadelphia Prices.

Table of Philadelphia prices for items like Foundry No. 1, Gray Forge, and Bessemer Pig.

STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Table of Baltimore, Md. stock market quotations for companies like Atlantic Coal, Balt. & N. C., and Big Vein Coal.

Birmingham, Ala.

Table of Birmingham, Ala. stock market quotations for companies like Ala. Cond. C., Bir. Min. & Mfg., and Broken Arrow.

Pittsburg, Pa.

Table of Pittsburg, Pa. stock market quotations for companies like Allegheny Gas, Bridgewater Gas, and Charlotte Mfg. Co.

Foreign Quotations.

Table of foreign stock market quotations for companies like Alturas Copper, Arizona Copper, and Birseve Creek.

DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

NON-DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

Main table with columns: NAME AND LOCATION OF COMPANY, CAPITAL STOCK, SHARES, ASSESSMENTS, DIVIDENDS, NAME AND LOCATION OF COMPANY, CAPITAL STOCK, SHARES, ASSESSMENTS. Lists 160 mining companies with their financial details.

G. Gold. S. Silver. L. Lead. C. Copper. * Non-assessable. † This company, as the Western, up to Dec. 10th, 1881, paid \$1,400,000. ‡ Non-assessable for three years. § The Deadwood previously paid \$275,000 in eleven dividends, and the Terra \$75,000. ¶ Previous to the consolidation in Aug., 1881, the company had paid \$31,320,000 in dividends, and the Con. Virginia, \$41,390,000. ** Previous to the consolidation of the Copper Queen with the Atlanta, Aug., 1885, the Copper Queen had paid \$1,350,000 in dividends.

NEW YORK MINING STOCKS QUOTATIONS.

DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

NON-DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

Main table containing mining stock quotations for dividend-paying and non-dividend-paying mines, including columns for company name, location, and prices for various dates from July 28 to August 3.

*Dealt in at the New York Stock Ex. Unlisted Securities Dividend shares sold, 13,650. Non-dividend shares sold, 70,310. Total New York, 83,960.

BOSTON MINING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Table containing Boston mining stock quotations, listing company names, locations, and prices for various dates from July 27 to August 2.

*Ex dividend. † Ex rights. Boston: Dividend shares sold, 49,015. Non-dividend shares sold, 29,721. Total Boston, 66,736.

COAL STOCKS.

Table containing coal stock quotations, listing company names and prices for various dates from July 28 to August 3.

*Bid †Asked. *Of the sales of this stock, 50,884 were in Philadelphia, and 131,605 in New York. Total sales, 263,478.

San Francisco Mining Stock Quotations.

Table containing San Francisco mining stock quotations, listing company names and closing quotations for various dates from July 27 to August 2.

