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THROUGH the courtesy of the Director of the Mint we are enabled to give, from advance proofs, a full abstract of his report for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1888. As usual this document contains a vast amount of valuable information from which we shall make liberal extracts when the full report is issued.

The production of the precious metals in the United States in the calendar year 1887 was, gold, fine ounces 1,596,375, coining value \$33,000,000, as compared with 1,881,250 ounces, and \$35,000,000 in 1886; silver, fine ounces 41,308,305, coining value \$53,357,000, as compared with 39,445,312 ounces, and \$51,000,000 in 1886. The production of gold therefore declined \$2,000,000, and that of silver increased about an equal amount; or our rate of production of the precious metals was practically unchanged.

The gold production of the world has declined during the past four years; while that of silver has increased about \$25,000,000, one of the

apparent reasons why the relative value of silver should have declined as it has.

Taking the report of the Director of the Mint in connection with that of the Secretary of the Treasury, an extract from which is also printed on another page, they show that the amount of United States coined gold and silver is more than the country needs. The device of issuing paper certificates to get the coin nominally in circulation has, as the Secretary states, both advantages and serious disadvantages, and we fully indorse his views where he says that "further accumulations of the precious metals should be only in the form of bullion, which can be kept more safely and counted more easily than the coin." Moreover, this would greatly reduce the mint expenses. Then, if one well designed and properly equipped mint were established, we would be able to fill the demands of the government in an economical and creditable manner, which is absolutely impossible by means of the antiquated and costly appliances with which the Director of the Mint has now to make shift."

WE are indebted to the Local Committee of the Arkansas Society of Engineers, Architects and Surveyors for a copy of the programme of the second annual meeting of the society, held at Little Rock, November 22d. The papers presented at this meeting covered a wide range of subjects, without transcending the limits of appropriateness and timeliness, as the following list of titles will show: The Fort Smith Sewerage System Municipal Improvements in Little Rock; Water Works of Texarkana; Concrete in Construction; Water Works of Rogers, Ark.; Electric Lighting of Towns; Arkansas Timber; Proportionate Errors in Surveying; What is Generally Expected of a Surveyor; Descriptions in Deeds; Construction of Hydraulic Rams; and Highway Bridges. The programme comprises excellent maps of Little Rock and of the State of Arkansas, and is provided with an artistically designed and neatly "blue-printed" cover.

The menu of the annual dinner is entitled "Specifications of Banquet to be Eaten According to Contract," and is drawn in the form and printed in the style of those usually uninteresting, though important, documents. From the foundation "which shall consist of meats, laid as follows," and the "interstices to be well filled with," etc., etc., through the water-table, superstructure, ornamentation, inside finish, plastering and hardware ("of best selected mixed nuts") to the final "two flowing coats of French coffee," which the whole is to receive, the banquet is built up with conscientious solidity. We cannot, however, forbear to express our surprise and admiration, that our friends were able to contract for such a feast. The average Engineers of this part of the country would certainly have had to expand for it. The circumstance affords a striking proof of the capacity of Arkansas engineers, at least when properly supported by architects of similar build, and surveyors of equally comprehensive views!

DRAWING ELECTRO DEPOSITED COPPER WIRE RODS.

We drew attention in our issue of August 18th to the importance of the new Elmore process for making copper tubes, recently introduced in England, and from the tests then cited and fully reported by us, there remained no question of the superiority and economy of this process over welding or even cold drawing. Now we have to record the adaptation of this electro-depositing system of tube making to the manufacture of electrolytic wire rods.

It has heretofore been necessary to melt electrolytic copper before it could be drawn in wire, and this melting is always accompanied by a deterioration in the conductivity of the metal.

Mr. ELMORE has arranged machinery by which an electro-deposited copper tube is cut spirally into a square wire which is afterwards drawn to the required thickness. The length of these wires, of course, is regulated by the length, thickness, and diameter of the tube, but there appears to be no difficulty in obtaining them of sufficient length for all practical purposes. On another page we give the details of the results obtained from the new wire, and it appears to show as good results in the desired directions as were already found in making boiler tubes.

ECUADOR.

We have read in some of our contemporaries, what we believe to be very erroneous and misleading statements with regard to the credit of this South American State, and concerning the prospects of entering into satisfactory commercial relations with it, and the opening it affords for American enterprise in railroad building. Instead of the glowing picture of the paper referred to, we learn that President FLORES is much disappointed at the state of affairs in Ecuador, and so hopeless about mending them that he threatens to resign and quit the country. There is no question about the valuable resources of the country and its natural wealth if properly developed. Under equitable administration, its grow-

ing prosperity and increasing revenue are also indubitable, but the trouble is a want of honesty.

After long negotiation with its foreign creditors, who have not received a cent of interest for twenty years, though constantly promised the reduced rate of interest of 1 per cent, Congress has now adjourned till some date in 1890, until which time the nation must remain in a state of bankruptcy. This evident preference for dishonesty shows clearly that it is better for Americans to leave the country severely alone, especially as regards transactions with the government. In Europe, where they have had so long and painful an experience, the country is totally discredited as a field for capital and enterprise.

#### THE HYDRAULIC MINING DEBRIS QUESTION.

It is amusing to read the editorial comments in the California press upon this "burning question" in consequence of the action now being taken on the Biggs Bill, to which we referred in our issue of November 10th. Naturally enough those portions of the State which expect to be benefited by the revival of a great and profitable industry are well pleased at the reopening of an inquiry, which, it is presumed, will be intelligent and impartial, and the result of which, they hope, will be to reverse the hostile State legislation and revive hydraulic mining. The question has been carefully studied by some of our most able and experienced engineers, men who have devoted many years to considering the solution of the problem of preventing the damage to agricultural lands by the debris from the mines, and it is asserted that a practicable system has been devised, that the mischief was done long ago, and really before the agricultural lands had a value.

Now that the hydraulic mines are closed, the farmers find that not only the debris still comes down in the freshets, but there is no longer a market for their produce; they are, therefore, more liberally disposed towards the mines, and may be satisfied with less than they demanded a few years ago.

The San Francisco *Call* indulges in utter nonsense when speaking of the "hydraulic machinery reducing the gravel to impalpable powder" and when it asserts that hydraulic mining brings about "the destruction of vast tracts of timber land, and sweeps the soil from hundreds and possibly thousands of fertile valleys situated in the mountain regions." Undoubtedly the hydraulic mining has destroyed or injured some small areas of agricultural land, but on the other hand it has added infinitely more to the wealth of the country than the few acres it injured, and it is suspected that most of the outcry against it came from those who bought valleys at a very small price and with the object of having them destroyed and then claiming immense damages from the mines. It is to be hoped that the new commission will get at the "bottom facts" and will treat the great industry affected in a broad and liberal spirit.

#### STEEL AND ALUMINUM BRONZE HEAVY CAST GUNS.

The failure of the Hainsworth cast steel gun, recorded on another page, is very unfortunate, though not at all conclusive against the use of cast steel for heavy ordnance. The cause of the failure in this case is not yet known, but we have the utmost confidence that cast steel guns will be made that will prove stronger and far more uniform and reliable than the expensive and irrational "built-up" gun.

It may be as Mr. HAINSWORTH suggests, that the tempering of the gun may have been badly done or may have affected its strength, or it may be that some modification in the method of casting may be necessary. The old Rodman principle of making cast-iron guns is considered by such eminent authorities as Mr. WILLIAM METCALF to be the best for casting steel also, and perhaps the Gatling modification of the Rodman method, by which the gun, cast with a core, is cooled from the center while the outside is kept at a high temperature, may bring the success which we are confident will before long be demonstrated.

In a matter of such vast importance to the government it would be proper that a certain portion of the public money be appropriated to making a few experimental cast steel guns, and the further experience which Mr. HAINSWORTH has now acquired, added to his recognized great skill, would especially fit him to make the experiments at the public expense. Such experiments are too costly for private enterprise, and the Pittsburg Steel Casting Company has already expended a large sum in this first one.

It is understood that the Gatling Ordnance Company, who are the owners of Dr. GATLING'S patents, are making, or intending to make by his system, two guns of, respectively, 10 and 12-inch calibre.

While we have undiminished confidence in the possibility of making strong steel cast guns, we still see so many advantages in the use of the aluminum alloys, which are being made so successfully by the Cowles Electric Smelting Company, that we believe experimental guns should be cast of this material, and tested at the public expense. There can be no question of its immense superiority over the brass or bronze still used successfully in field guns, and the possibility of making perfectly

homogeneous castings of an alloy which equals high quality of cast steel in strength, and greatly exceeds it in elasticity, has been fully demonstrated. Cast guns are the heavy guns of the future as of the past, and the difficulties which have occasioned the present "set back" are, we feel assured, of an avoidable character, and will be overcome.

#### VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

In the annual report of Mr. C. W. LANGTREE, the Secretary for Mines of the Colony of Victoria, Australia, there is an earnest recommendation to the government "for the appointment of a commission of experts to visit Europe and America for the purpose of inquiring into the best means of saving the fine gold which, to the extent of many thousands of pounds in value, is annually lost to the colony," and the Secretary adds, "if the state spends willingly the large amount of £80,000 every year in assisting in the search for gold, surely the small sum of £3,000 spent in endeavoring to ascertain the best means of retaining the gold when found could not be considered wasted."

Without discussing, at this time, how far the general government can properly go in applying public funds to the encouragement of special industries, we may say that the practice of sending expert commissions to foreign countries to study and report the progress made in any particular industry has proved a very beneficial investment for those who have done it.

Several foreign governments, as well as our own under the present administration, use their consular agents to gather information of this character. As consuls are rarely specialists, their reports are not often of great value, and no doubt the most efficient manner of gaining the information needed is either by experts employed in the country itself, which is probably the best way, or by sending experts to visit the foreign country and report on what they see, as is proposed in the Australian report referred to. The establishment of a National School of Mines is also recommended, and in this respect Victoria is behind her sister colony of New Zealand, where not only has such a school been established, but they have also the practical advantage of peripatetic schools in the various mining districts.

Another report from the same department relates to irrigation, to the importance of which our Australian cousins are becoming fully alive. This report deals with water from artesian and river sources, and details the large amount of work done in sinking artesian wells, building dams and storage reservoirs, and the formation of trusts under the irrigation act. The only national work of importance that has been undertaken is the building of one dam that will cost about \$500,000.

The actual irrigable area of the trusts already constituted amounts to 704,688 acres, and the total amount of the loans to be advanced by the government for the execution of the works necessary is £586,367. In addition to these already formed there are nineteen applications under consideration, of which the irrigable area is estimated at 1,122,849 acres. Prizes are offered by the government for the best irrigated farm, and for best variety of irrigated crops.

#### THE CONSUMPTION OF WOODEN RAILROAD TIES AND THE USE OF STEEL TIES.

In our issue of October 27th we stated, on the authority of the *Moniteur Industriel*, that the six principal railroad companies of France consume 3,650,000 ties per annum. This may be correct, and ought to be so on such authority, but the subsequent estimate of our French contemporary as to the consumption of ties in this country we find to be much understated.

Assuming the entire railroad system of the United States to be 160,000 miles, as appears from Poor's Manual, with the addition of the lines in construction during the current year, and taking 2640 ties per mile of track, we have in use at least 422,400,000 wooden ties. This estimate, large though the total appears, is under the mark, as no railroad uses less than 2640 ties per mile, and many of the roads with heavy traffic have 2816 and in a few cases more.

The life of these ties varies according to their quality and the climatic conditions, but in the East, where only the best ties are employed, the average life is found to be about six years, while in the West, where a poorer quality of timber often has to be accepted, and where dry-rot and other disadvantages have to be contended with, the average life is from three to five years; so that even after allowing for a few exceptional cases in which ties may last ten years, the average life of ties all over the country cannot be counted as more than five years.

It follows, therefore, that the annual consumption must be about 84,500,000, which, with the steady increase of railroad building, must soon exceed 100,000,000, a gigantic demand to be satisfied from our forests each year, when we consider the many other calls upon them, and the fact that at present virtually nothing is being done by the government or the people to replenish our source of supply.

The certain rise in the price of wooden ties, when these facts come to

be fully appreciated by the lumber men who control so large a part of the available timber area, will force the railroads to seek the best solution of the question in the adoption of a metal tie. This, indeed, is the only thing that can save our forests and render possible and effective the endeavors of the Forestry Division.

The prime questions with railroad managers are economy and safety. It has now been amply demonstrated in Europe that a properly constructed steel tie is both safer and more economical than a wooden one, and indeed wooden ties will soon be looked upon as almost as much behind the age as are wooden bridges and iron rails. One of our contemporaries devoted to railroad interests takes exception to metal ties as wanting in the necessary elasticity, and asserts that there is in practice no efficient substitute for wood.

This, however, is not borne out by the experience of those who have used them, and the growing favor with which they are received. It is certain that greater firmness and solidity will be attained by their adoption, with sufficient elasticity, if a suitable form be used. Mr. WOOD, President of the Cleveland Institute of Civil Engineers in England, in a recent address pointed out the growing importance of this branch of industry to that famous steel-making center, and stated that the North-eastern Railway had tried such ties in 1879; when taken up 3,000,000 tons of traffic had passed over them, and that if they had been made of steel in place of iron they would still be in use. The amount manufactured there in the last five years was 525,000 tons, a convincing proof of their growing popularity, in spite of admitted defects, as is also the tender for 30,000 tons now called for by one of the Indian railways, which has had them in use for many years. The Mexican (Vera Cruz) line found, after the recent torrential storms that greatly damaged their road, that the portions laid with steel sleepers suffered much less than the rest, so much so that we are informed they have decided on pushing the replacement of all their wooden ties with steel ones, a step they had already determined to adopt.

THE ELMORE ELECTRO-DEPOSITED COPPER FOR WIRE BARS.

The advantage to be derived by obtaining the most conductive copper was perceived in the early days of submarine cable enterprise, and over twenty years ago Dr. Matthiessen carried out a series of careful and valuable experiments in order to fix a standard to which the various samples of commercial copper could be referred. By using elaborate precautions he obtained the purest copper that was then practicable, and determined that a pure hard-drawn copper wire, 1 meter in length and 1 gramme in weight, should have a resistance of .1469 ohm at the temperature of 0 deg. Cent. This standard has been in use up to the present and has been believed for many years to be the extreme limit of conducting power for copper. But, owing to the great care that has since been bestowed by copper manufacturers, this standard has occasionally been surpassed, and by the introduction of the improved method now under consideration, has been rendered obsolete, and the Electrical Standards Committee of the British Association have now under their consideration the desirability and the necessity of fixing a new standard.

In order to obtain the best quality of copper for cable and other electrical purposes, the practice of late years has been to get electro-deposited copper in the usual manner, and then to exercise the greatest possible care in melting it for casting into "wire bars," which are then drawn into wire. A very small amount of an impurity such as arsenic, antimony, sulphur, phosphorus, etc., gaining access to the metal, at once greatly reduces the conductivity.

The new method has the important advantage that impurities have no opportunity of gaining access to the metal. By the nature of the process it is necessarily and unavoidably pure. Special machinery has been arranged so that an electro-burnished tube of any desired length, diameter and thickness can be cut spirally into a square wire which can then be drawn down in the usual manner to any required diameter.

The wire being drawn directly from the electro-burnished tube obviates entirely the necessity for melting, and thus constitutes altogether a new departure in the manufacture of pure copper wire. Some of the tests to which it has been subjected are very interesting. Two large coils of the new wire were taken, the wire of the first having a diameter of 0.113 inch (about 12 B. W. G.), and the second a diameter of 0.05 inch (about 18 B. W. G.), both being extremely hard-drawn. In order, however, to be perfectly satisfied that the practical limit of hardness had been reached, the larger wire was drawn through 13 holes in a draw-plate (the last hole being of agate), without annealing, until the diameter of the wire was reduced to .057 inch. Its hardness may be judged of by the fact that the breaking strain was 29 tons per square inch, with an elongation of only 2 per cent. The No. 18 B. W. G. wire had a breaking strain of nearly 29 tons per square inch with an elongation of only 2 per cent. When these wires were annealed they showed an elongation of 25 to 33 per cent before breaking.

Dr. Matthiessen found that the purer the metal was obtained, the greater was the variation of its electrical resistance with corresponding variations of temperature, and gave the general law as  $R_t = R_0 (1 + at \pm b t^2)$  where  $R_0$  is the resistance of the metal or alloy at the temperature of 0 deg. Cent., and  $R_t$  the resistance of any temperature  $t$  deg. Cent. above 0 deg. He found that for most pure metals the value of  $a$  was .003824t, and  $b$  .00000126t<sup>2</sup>, with the + sign between them. The experiments carried out on the new wire are confirmatory of its great purity, as these coefficients are found to be distinctly higher, the expression for it being  $R^2 = R_0 (1 + .0041158t + .000003077t^2)$ .

The results of the conductivity tests are given in the first table in the next column. The conducting power of the hardest wire is so high that, with a breaking strain of 29 tons per square inch, it has a conductivity about 2 1/2 per cent higher than that of soft annealed wire of the best quality hitherto obtained commercially (say 98 per cent). When the new wire

is annealed it has a conducting power 4 1/2 per cent above that of best commercial copper.

Diameter.	Gauge (approximate) B. W. G.	Conductivity of annealed wire in terms of standard for annealed copper.	Conductivity of annealed wire in terms of standard for hard copper.
in.			
0.113	12	102.33	104.39
0.057	17	102.35	104.41
0.049	18	102.45	104.51
Mean.....		102.38	104.44

The following mechanical tests have been made on the wire, each result being the mean of three experiments:

Diameter.	Weight per statute mile.	Breaking strain.		Elongation. Per cent.	Number of twists in 3 inches.
		Observed. Lb.	Per sq. in. Tons.		
0.113	205.0	612	27.4	2	31
0.082	110.0	375	31.2	1 5/8	42
0.057	52.8	166	28.7	3/4	not taken
0.05	40.8	127	28.4	5/8	47

The wire was also tested as follows: It was wrapped six times around its own circumference, as in making a "bell-hanger's joint." It was then unwrapped, wrapped again, and so on until the wire broke. The results were:

Diameter.	Specimen.	Wrapping and Unwrapping.							
		on	off	on	off	on	off	on	off
0.113	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
0.05	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	3	..
	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4
	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

It will thus be seen that the hard wire is admirably adapted for overhead telegraph wires possessing the two requisites of great strength and high conductivity. The efficiency of dynamo machines and electrical instruments can be increased because a greater number of "ampere-turns" can be got within a given space. The copper tape or ribbon used so extensively for lightning conductors can be cut direct from the tube of any length and sectional area by the special machinery before mentioned. It would take up too much of our space to dilate upon the enormous demand for pure copper that must arise due to the development of the industrial applications of electricity. Mr. W. H. Preece, in his recent address to the Mechanical Section of the British Association meeting at Bath, said that already there were 110,000 miles of submarine cables at work, and over £40,000,000 of British capital had been expended in laying and working them. It requires a fleet of thirty-seven ships, maintained in various oceans, to lay new cables and to repair breaks and faults as they occur. It has recently been computed that in a comparatively short time London will require 150,000 tons of copper for electric lighting purposes, and a like amount will be wanted for Paris. But enough has been said to show that the new process commends itself as much to the consideration of the electrical engineer as it does to his brother in the mechanical profession.

We condense the foregoing from *Engineering*.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE STEAM BOILER CATECHISM forms one of the well-known series by Mr. Robert Grimshaw, and published by the Practical Publishing Company of this city, and is perhaps the best of the series. It seems to us to be what it professes, viz., complete, practical and easy for any one who should be put in charge of boilers, to understand. We do not know that we fully appreciate this fashion of instruction by catechism, and on some people it has an irritating effect; but any objection that may be raised on this score is amply met by the copious index, so that a boiler user who is impatient can obtain the information sought for without submitting himself to questions on other points. One feature which should prove of use is the insertion of the examination questions of the Canadian, New York, and Philadelphia licensing boards.

HAMPE'S METHOD OF DETERMINING Cu<sub>2</sub>O IN METALLIC COPPER.

We regret that in the article last week by Professor F. P. DEWEY, on Hampe's Method of Determining Cu<sub>2</sub>O in Metallic Copper, two misprints occurred, changing nitrite into nitrate, first on the thirty-eighth line from the top of page 460, and second, the first time the word occurs in the twenty-first line from the bottom of same page.

**Quick Foundry Work.**—The Chattanooga *Tradesman* gives the following account of quick work done for the United States Rolling Stock Company, of Anniston, Ala.: The bell at Woodstock Furnace No. 2 having fallen in, another had to be made. At 2 o'clock p.m. the metal was still in the shape of pig-iron, and the large casting was made, taken to the machine shop and turned, and then drilled and delivered to the Woodstock Company at their furnaces before 4 o'clock a.m. Considering the size and shape of the casting and the difficulty of handling and fastening it to the lathe, much credit is due for the exceedingly short time required to do the work.

**The Coal-Fields of Colorado.**—The geological survey brings forcibly before us the resources of this State in the matter of coal. Within sixty miles of Pueblo, there are now being worked 1,000,000 acres that have veins of from six to nine feet in thickness. The output of the State for 1887 was 1,791,735 tons, of which nearly two thirds came from the coal-field referred to. The amount of coal in the Cañon district is placed at 150,000,000 tons, and is a first-class bituminous coal. Retail price in Pueblo, \$3.50 to \$5 per ton, according to quality and season, and \$1 to \$1.50 for small coal for factory purposes. The average value of coal on cars at the pits is about \$2.25 a ton; therefore the total of the output in 1887 was \$3,941,817. The number of persons employed in the industry was about 5000, and the average cost of placing coal on cars, including royalty, is \$1.73 per ton.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The principal features of Mr. Fairchild's report are the following:

BOND PURCHASES.

Upon the subject of bond purchases, after stating that they have amounted to \$46,577,165.88 during the fiscal year, the secretary says:

I am confident that the delay in the purchase of bonds, while waiting for Congress to act, resulted in no substantial pecuniary loss to the Government. The purchase was resumed under a circular of April 17, 1888, and since that time nearly all the bonds which have been offered for sale to the Government have been bought by it, as will appear from an inspection of the bond purchase book. Of course many offerings of bonds have been declined because the price was thought to be too high, but finally almost all of the offered bonds were bought at some price. An example will show this more clearly. Certain bonds of a par value of only \$326,000 were offered so often that the offerings aggregated more than \$19,700,000, but they were at last secured by the department. Ninety-four millions of dollars of bonds have been secured under this circular, and a premium paid for the privilege of buying them of about \$18,000,000; the net rate of interest realized from this investment is only about 2 per cent, and the saving in the total amount of interest which would have been paid had the bonds been allowed to run to maturity, is about \$27,000,000. Had taxation been reduced so as to leave this money with the people, and if it is worth in their business 5 per cent per annum, the total value of the money to them during the term which these bonds had to run would be about \$83,000,000; thus, there is a resulting loss to the people of \$56,000,000 upon this transaction alone. If this over-taxation is not stopped, and if the government is forced to continue to be a purchaser of its own bonds at the holder's prices, the loss to the people, as could be shown by a like calculation, must be hundreds of millions of dollars.

SILVER COINAGE.

The ownership of silver by the Government again was largely decreased, in spite of the increase of the total stock of silver dollars in the country, by the coinage of 16 months. During the past few years the decrease of circulation caused by the cancellation of national bank notes, and by the deposit of money with the Treasurer by the banks to redeem their notes when presented for that purpose, has been but little exceeded by the increased circulation of silver certificates and of standard silver dollars; thus silver seems to have filled the vacuum caused by the retirement of national bank circulation. The circulating medium in small denominations has been largely converted into silver certificates. And finally business has largely increased in the South and in portions of the country where there are few banking facilities. All of these causes have co-operated to postpone any evil effects which might arise from a continued and excessive coinage of the silver dollar; but the danger still exists and should be guarded against. This can be done by the adoption of the recommendation of my last report, viz., by fixing the maximum of silver which shall belong to the Government and by providing that when it was exceeded by \$5,000,000 the purchase of silver bullion should cease until the amount owned by the Government should be again reduced to such maximum, or by cancelling United States notes to the amount of the excess over the maximum, provided the Government held the notes; if not, then by ceasing the purchase of bullion. Such plan, if adopted, would provide a safety valve which would be self-operative and would assure the country against any possible danger from silver, for as soon as it exceeded the amount which could be absorbed in the business of the country it would begin to flow into the treasury in payment of taxes, and would be there held until business called for it, and when the government's ownership fell below the maximum the purchase of the bullion would again begin.

Thus the country's business demand would regulate the country's silver circulation, and there would be little danger of depreciation in the value of the silver dollar as compared with the gold dollar. I venture to predict that if some such safeguard is not adopted and if thereby the silver dollar is suffered at some time to lose a part of its purchasing power, that the people will demand the absolute stoppage of the silver bullion purchase, and furthermore, the use by the Government of the whole or a portion of the silver coinage profits for the redemption of the silver dollars which are held by them. It is to be hoped that before such crisis is reached that the nations of the world will have agreed upon some standard of bimetalism which will forever maintain a fixed ratio between gold and silver, but in the meantime there is no occasion to burden ourselves with a stock of silver which may be troublesome.

COIN CERTIFICATES.

The system of coin circulation by means of certificates has certain conveniences and advantages, but it is a costly form of money; last year the cost of the \$105,000,000 silver certificates issued was about \$421,000, and as more and more of these certificates are converted into smaller denominations this cost is likely to increase. There are also certain dangers connected with it—for example, in time of war, the possession by the Government of such vast stores of the precious metals might prove embarrassing, and at a time when the Government was in financial need the temptation to spend the coin held against outstanding certificates might prove too strong. The loss by the abrasion of the coin, if it was in circulation, would not equal the cost of the certificates; on the whole, I think it may be said that the currency of the country would be more safe and more economical if the coin were in actual circulation instead of being held by the Government on pledge against outstanding certificates, as is now the case. But whatever may be thought about the wisdom of the certificate system there can be no doubt that with it the further coinage of gold and silver, except subsidiary coin, is not necessary or wise. Far more gold and silver coins are now in the possession of the Government than probably ever will be needed for the redemption of certificates. Future accumulation of the precious metals should be only in the form of bullion, which can be kept more safely and counted more easily than the coin. If this suggestion was adopted all but one of our mints might be closed and large useless expense be saved annually. I earnestly call the attention of the Congress to this subject.

THE DRAINAGE OF THE VALLEY OF MEXICO.

Written for the Engineering and Mining Journal by Richard E. Chism, M.E.

The valley of Mexico is comprehended between 19 and 20 degrees north latitude, and between longitudes 98 degrees 41 minutes 45 seconds, and 99 degrees 9 minutes 45 seconds west from Greenwich. The City of Mexico, in the center of the valley, is in latitude 19 degrees 26 minutes 5 seconds north, and longitude 99 degrees 6 minutes 45 seconds west of Greenwich.

The valley is bounded on the north by the mountain chain of Pachuca and the smaller ranges that converge upon the sierra of Tezontlalpan, from which point they pass on to the westward to form the mountain chains on the western side of the valley. To the southward the cordilleras of Ajusco, and to the eastward the great Sierra Nevada complete the enclosure, which has no natural outlet.

The highest points of the mountain chain are the volcanoes of Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl on the eastern side of the valley. The first is 5400 meters (17,820 feet), and the second 4786 meters (15,789 feet) above the sea level. The southern mountain chain culminates in the peak of Ajusco, which is 3945 meters (13,018 feet) above the sea.

The lowest point of the inclosure is directly north of the city of Mexico. At this point the hills are only about 100 meters (328 feet) higher than the lowest level of the valley, and it is here that the drainage tunnel is to be pierced.

The bottom of the valley is a nearly level plain of an oval shape, with its longest diameter 47 1/2 miles from north to south, and its shortest, from east to west, 32 1/2 miles. The plain is interrupted by a few eminences, the most notable of which is the Guadalupe range of hills, which stretches out into the center of the valley from its western side.

The average altitude of the bottom of the valley is about 2360 meters (7742 feet) above the sea, and its total area is 4293 square kilometers (1657.3 square miles). The total area of the hydrographic surface of the valley, which includes the bottom of the valley and the mountain sides that drain toward the interior, is about 7024.4 square kilometers (2711.25 square miles).

Upon the bosom of the valley rest six lakes of considerable size, forming a crescent around the City of Mexico. Lakes Chalco and Xochimilco are to the southeast of the city, Lake Texcoco to the eastward, San Cristobal and Xaltocan to the northeast and Lake Zumpango to the north. The relative situation of these lakes will be more clearly seen by reference to the map which accompanies this paper, and their respective dimensions, contents and other particulars will be seen by the following table:

Lakes.	Average approx. length.		Average approx. breadth.		Average depth.	
	Kiloms.	Miles.	Kiloms.	Miles.	Meters.	Feet.
Chalco.....	14.500	9.00	14.500	9.00	1.5	4.95
Xochimilco.....	10.500	6.52	5.750	3.77	1.5	4.95
Texcoco.....	22.000	13.66	12.000	7.44	0.91	3.00
Xaltocan.....	12.000	7.44	6.000	3.72	0.71	2.34
San Cristobal...	7.000	4.35	2.000	1.24	0.71	2.34
Zumpango.....	5.800	3.60	3.500	2.17	1.27	4.19

Lakes.	Altitude with respect to the Mexico City bench marks. Pavement of plaza.		Areas.		Contents in cubic meters.
	Meters.	Feet.	Sq. kiloms.	Sq. miles.	
Chalco.....	1.61	5.31	157.000	60.60	235,500,000
Xochimilco.....	1.51	5.00			
Texcoco.....	1.25	4.10	241.4400	93.20	219,710,400
Xaltocan.....	2.17	7.16	76.4000	29.50	54,244,000
San Cristobal...	2.17	7.16			
Zumpango.....	6.12	20.20	22.1263	8.54	28,100,401
Totals.....			496.9663	191.84	537,554,801

NOTE. Lake Zumpango has the general form of a triangle, altitude about 7 kilometers and base 5.8 kilometers.

Upon comparing the altitudes of the several lakes it will be noticed that there are four drainage planes in the valley. The highest plane is that of Lake Zumpango, the next is that of the lakes Xaltocan and San Cristobal, which are practically one. The third plane is that of Lakes Chalco and Xochimilco, also practically one lake, and the last and lowest is that of Lake Texcoco, upon whose banks is situated the City of Mexico. It is at once evident that the latter lake would naturally receive the waters of all the rest were it not for the restraints, partly natural and partly artificial, which prevent this and the consequent destruction of the city from coming to pass.

Each of the lakes receives several feeders, which are of small size or even dry in the dry season of the year, but which have considerable volume during the rainy season, causing the lakes to rise and overflow if the rains are heavy and of long continuance.

In bygone times Lake Zumpango was the point where the danger of overflow was greatest, as it then received the waters of the River Cuautlan, which drains a large extent of country, probably one fourth of the entire extent of the valley, and rises very rapidly after a heavy rain at its head waters. That river is now led away through the Verdaderos canal into the Tajo or cut of Nochistongo, so that this source of peril is eliminated.

The waters of lakes Zumpango, Chalco and Xochimilco are derived from springs and clear brooks, and have a certain outflow so that they are fresh and drinkable. On the contrary, the waters of the lakes San Cristobal and Xaltocan, and in a more eminent degree those of Lake

Texcoco, are salty and bitter to such an extent as to be fatal to vegetation.

**GEOLOGY OF THE VALLEY.**

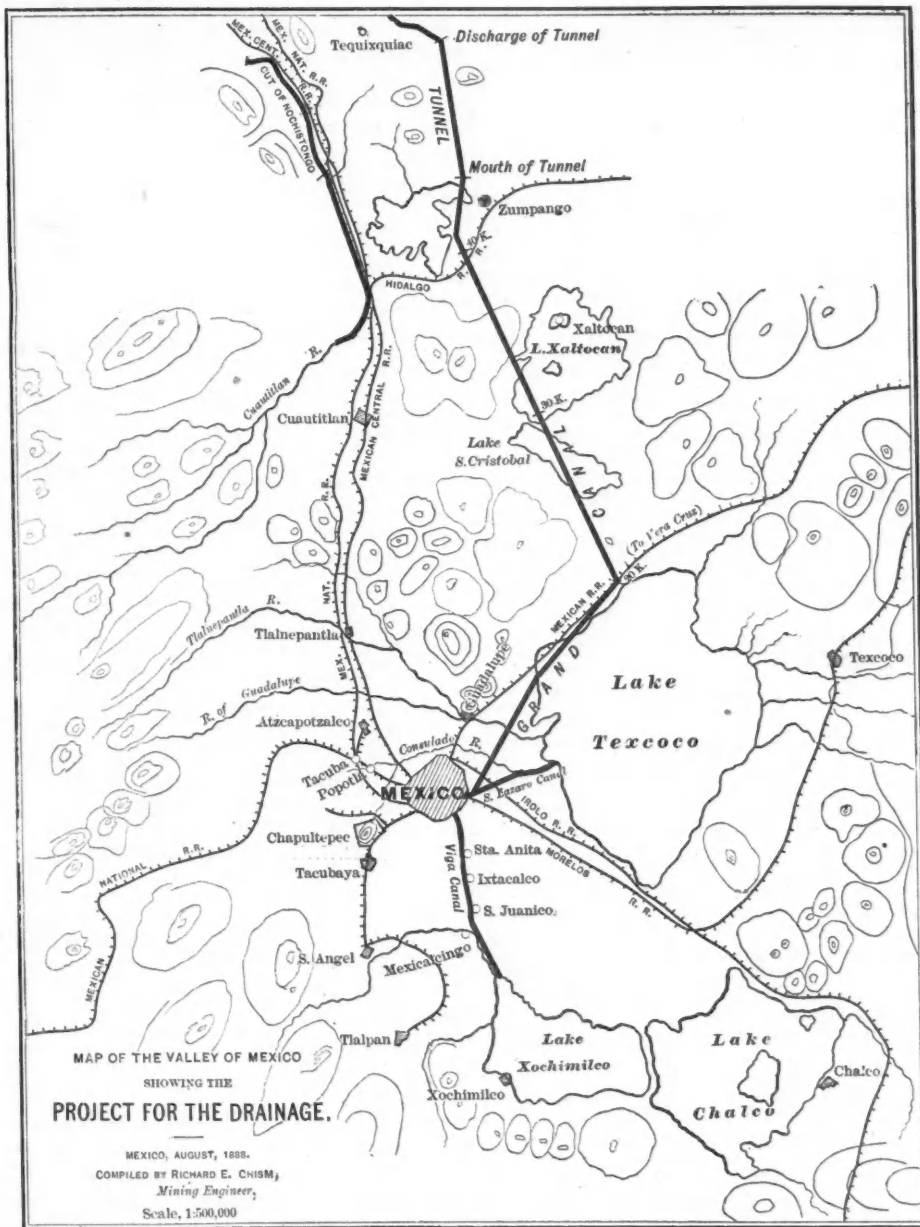
The rocks that compose the mountain walls of the valley are of the three groups, igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary.

The igneous rocks predominate in the whole extension of the chain, but especially on the eastern, southern and western sides. In the Sierra Nevada the rocks are principally dolorites and scoriaceous lavas. The peak of Ajusco is made up of compact basalt and its western slope of trachyte porphyry. These same rocks, basalts, trachytes and spongy lavas also compose the hills that at various points interrupt the plains of the valley.

Metamorphic rocks are found in the shape of compact limestone on the northern side of the valley and sedimentary formations in the level ground of the center. All over the floor of the valley we have a succession of varying thickness of beds of clay, marls, sand and gravel, products of the decomposition and degradation of the older rocks, while

now is, and on this one the mystic eagle that had been the guide of the wandering Aztecs is said to have rested to make a snake lunch, an event that signified the end of the long journey. Upon the other pinnacle the Aztecs erected the temple of the sanguinary Huitzilpochtli, later on replaced by the present grand cathedral.

The ridge of rock referred to extends in a southwesterly direction through the center of the city between the hill of Guadalupe on the north and that of Chapultepec on the southwest and has been a prime cause of the formation of the land on which the city stands, becoming at first a swamp and afterward dry land, leaving the bulk of the lake to recede to the eastward. At the time of the Spanish Conquest this process had gone on so far that there was a shallow arm of the lake to the north and south of the city, where there were depressions in the chain of rocks, and shallow pools or marshy ground to the westward where the filling up had progressed farther but was not yet complete. The lake came close up to the city on the eastern side, but was gradually receding. At the present time the western shore of Lake



the beds of decomposed igneous rocks are in place as the foundation of all.

An eminent Mexican geologist classifies the metamorphic limestones of the valley as Mesozoic, the porphyries and basalts he calls, in general, tertiary, although he believes that some of the latter and all the lavas belong to the present epoch. Some of the sedimentary formations are referred to the Post-Tertiary period and the rest to present geologic time.

Without entering into the question as to the mode of formation of this curious valley, whether it is a vast filled-up crater or the result of a subsidence, we may review some of the latter phases of its history that have a more immediate relation with our subject.

When the Aztecs, on their mysterious march to the southward, arrived at the present site of this city, the vast lake that at one time had covered the whole valley had diminished considerably in size and the present bodies of water were represented by two lakes, a northern and a southern one. At the western part of the southern lake a ridge of harder and unaltered rock emerged through the sedimentary rocks and the lacustrine deposits. The pinnacles of rock, part of this ridge, came to or near the surface of the lake, and around these an island of marsh was developing into the future site of the City of Mexico. One of these pinnacles of rock is stated to have been where the plaza of Santo Domingo

Texcoco is at a distance of 3.5 kilometers, 2.17 miles, from the eastern side of the city.

**RAINFALL AND EVAPORATION.**

From the observations made at the Meteorological Observatory in this city and extending over many years, it has been demonstrated that the annual rainfall in the center of the valley is about 0.61 meters (20 inches). Taking this as the figure for the whole valley, we have the total quantity of water received during the year to be, on an average 4,286,884,000 cubic meters. Of this quantity about one third, or, say, 1,500,000,000, is drained away through the Cuautitlan River and the Tajo or cut of Nochistongo; about 2,000,000 cubic meters more are used in irrigation or evaporated in transit, so that the lakes finally receive some 786,884,000 cubic meters in the course of an average year. Of course, there will be some years in which the influx will be less, as well as others during which it will be greater. The average daily influx to the lakes during the average year will be 2,160,000 cubic meters. As we have seen, the surface area of the lakes is very considerable, and the evaporation therefrom at the rate of from three to five millimeters daily is just about sufficient to dispose of the average daily supply. In fact, as the lakes are slowly diminish-

ing in size, it is evident that the evaporation during any given long series of years must be greater than the inflow from the rains.

The bulk of the yearly rainfall takes place during the last five months of June, July, August, September, and October, in which months the rainfall is about five times that of all the rest of the year. At this time, known as the rainy season, the evaporation diminishes and is quite unable to cope with the large quantity of water suddenly received in the lakes, and we have the periodical inundations to which the valley is subject.

During the rainy season the water is only kept from flooding the city by means of the dykes which restrain the rivers and the upper lakes and also exclude the water from Lake Texcoco. The city itself at such times is a closed area surrounded to a greater or less extent by water at a higher level than the ground inside the city defenses. However, at the present level of Lake Texcoco, it would take about five weeks continuous rainfall to fill it up to the city level, even at the rate at which the water pours down during the rainy season, so that the danger of an overflow is not so imminent as in former years.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.

Dr. James P. Kimball, the Director of the Mint, has submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury his report on the operations of the mint service for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1888.

The value of the deposits of gold was \$80,894,456.67, including \$8,668,959.11 of re-deposits.

The deposits and purchases of silver were 35,941,507.92 standard ounces of the value, at coining rate, of \$41,822,846.45. This included re-deposits of the value of \$491,831.79.

Of the gold deposited, \$32,406,306.59 was classified as of domestic production, against \$32,973,027.41 in the preceding year. These figures tend to indicate a reduction of half a million dollars in the production of gold in the United States.

The foreign gold bullion deposited aggregated \$21,741,042.44; foreign gold coin, \$14,596,885.03; a total of \$36,337,927.47, against \$32,467,840.98 in the year preceding.

The value of United States light gold coin, deposited for re-coining, was \$492,512.60. Old material was deposited in the form of jewelry, bars, plate, etc., containing gold of the value of \$2,988,750.90.

Of the silver bullion deposited and purchased \$37,393,648.34 (32,135,165.79 standard ounces) was classified as of domestic production, \$1,668,384.25 as foreign silver bullion, and \$87,336 as foreign silver coin.

United States silver coin, consisting almost entirely of transfers from the Treasury of worn and uncurrent subsidiary silver coin, was melted during the year of the value of \$194,155.64. Trade dollars were received and melted of the value of \$1,060,174.11.

Old material was deposited containing silver of the value of \$627,316.32.

Recoinages thus far communicated to this Bureau, amounted during the calendar year 1887 to: Gold, \$29,786,783; silver, \$30,174,980.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The value of the gold bars furnished for industrial use during the calendar year 1887 was \$11,672,606.40; silver bars, \$5,241,998.19; total, \$16,914,604.59.

On the basis of the last direct reports of the use of coin, the industrial employment of the precious metals for the calendar year 1887 is estimated as follows: Gold, \$14,600,000; silver, \$5,280,000.

STOCK OF COIN IN THE UNITED STATES.

The stock of gold and silver coin in the United States July 1, 1888, is estimated to have been: Gold coin, \$595,349,837; silver dollars, \$299,708,790; subsidiary silver coins, \$76,406,376.

At the same date there was gold bullion awaiting coinage in the mints of the value of \$110,469,018; silver bullion, \$3,950,388; melted trade dollars, \$6,545,554; making a total metallic stock of \$1,092,429,963. Of this there was in the Treasury of the United States \$594,533,172; in national banks, \$105,435,492, and in other banks and in general circulation \$392,461,299.

The estimate for the 1st November, 1888, was: Gold coin, \$603,225,837; silver dollars, \$309,750,890; subsidiary silver, \$76,660,481; gold bullion in the mints, \$108,479,213; silver bullion, \$10,559,113; total, \$1,108,675,534.

COINAGE.

The coinage is exhibited in the following table:

Description.	Pieces.	Value.
Gold.....	2,350,534	\$28,364,170.50
Silver dollars.....	32,718,673	32,718,673.00
Subsidiary silver coin.....	12,983,521	2,417,428.25
Minor coins.....	60,977,819	1,218,976.57
Total.....	109,030,547	\$63,719,242.32

The subsidiary coinage consisted of 5673 half dollars, 778,673 quarter dollars, and 12,199,175 dimes.

The minor coinage of the mint at Philadelphia was the largest in the history of the mint service, being occasioned by the demand for 5-cent nickles and 1-cent bronze pieces.

Gold bars were exchanged for full-weight United States gold coin, as authorized by the act of May 26, 1882, of the value of \$15,846,986.25, against \$7,604,059.89 in the preceding year, indicating an increased demand for gold bars for export.

Gold and silver bars were manufactured as follows: Gold, \$51,765,436.95; silver, \$7,547,578.27; total, \$59,313,015.22.

Medals were manufactured at the mint at Philadelphia as follows: Gold, 124; silver, 531; bronze, 742; total, 1397.

SILVER PURCHASES.

27,235,601.06 standard ounces of silver bullion, costing \$23,398,466.06, were delivered on semi-weekly purchases on telegraphic offers. The average cost was \$0.95.45 per ounce fine. The average London rate at the par of exchange was \$0.95.741 per ounce fine. Silver purchased at

the mints increased the total purchases of silver for the silver dollar coinage to 28,206,805.91 standard ounces, costing \$24,237,553.20. The average cost per fine ounce of all the silver purchased for the silver dollar coinage was \$0.95.47.

The silver for subsidiary coinage was obtained from melting worn and uncurrent coins of the value of \$535,355.99 and 745,690 trade dollars.

The seignorage on the coinage of silver dollars during the year was \$8,407,922.32 and on the subsidiary coinage \$71,191.80. The seignorage on the coinage of silver from July 1, 1878, to June 30, 1888, has amounted to \$47,536,681.02.

The following table exhibits the number of silver dollars coined, the number held by the Treasury and the number outstanding July 1st, 1887, and October 1st, 1888:

PERIOD.	Total coinage of silver dollars.	In the Treasury.		In circulation.
		Held for payment of certificates outstanding.	Held in excess of certificates outstanding.	
July 1st, 1887.....	266,990,117	142,118,017	69,365,953	55,506,147
October 1st, 1888.....	306,750,890	218,561,601	30,229,933	57,959,356

The number of silver dollars distributed by the mints during the year was 12,054,104, exclusive of transfers to the treasury.

PRICE OF SILVER.

On July 1st, 1887, the London price of silver was 44 pence. The highest price was reached August 26th, 1888, namely 45 3-16 pence; the lowest, May 19th, namely 41 1/2 pence. At the close of the fiscal year, June 30th, 1888, the price was 42 1/2 pence.

APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.

The amount appropriated for the support of the mints and assay offices was \$1,096,390. In addition, the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the renewal of the steam power plant at the mint at Philadelphia, amounting to \$43,174.93, was available. There was expended from regular appropriations \$1,039,492.35 and from the permanent appropriation for the coinage of the silver dollar \$234,480.84. A total of \$1,273,973.19.

The net expenditures of refineries were \$155,903.16, against receipts amounting to \$157,727.45.

The earnings of mints and assay offices from all sources amounted to \$9,788,592.80, and the expenditures and operative losses to \$1,534,209.91.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD AND SILVER.

Gold imports:		Gold exports:	
Bullion.....	\$17,180,332	Domestic bullion.....	\$9,348,685
Foreign coin.....	21,572,472	Foreign coin.....	5,816,150
United States coin.....	5,181,513	United States coin.....	3,211,399
Total bullion and coin.....	\$43,934,317	Total bullion and coin.....	\$18,376,234
	Gain in gold, \$25,558,083.		
Silver imports:		Silver exports:	
Foreign bullion.....	\$5,619,006	Domestic bullion.....	\$20,563,956
Foreign ores.....	4,506,655	Domestic ores.....	107,873
Foreign coin.....	9,478,084	Foreign bullion re-exported.....	31,980
United States coin (including trade dollars).....	306,579	Foreign coin re-exported.....	7,370,549
Total.....	\$19,910,324	Foreign ores re-exported.....	683
		United States coin.....	71,464
		Total exports.....	\$28,146,510
		Net loss by export, \$8,236,186.	

PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The production of gold and silver in the United States for the calendar year 1887 is estimated to have been:

	Fine ounces.	Coining value.
Gold.....	1,596,375	\$33,000,000
Silver.....	41,268,305	53,357,000

The production of gold and silver in the world for the last four years is exhibited in the following table:

Calendar years.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Kilograms.	Value.	Kilograms.	Coinage value.
1884.....	153,017	\$101,694,000	2,665,386	\$110,773,000
1885.....	156,103	103,744,000	2,954,766	122,799,800
1886.....	149,355	99,250,877	3,027,632	125,828,400
1887.....	149,048	99,056,850	3,259,144	135,449,410

The production of gold has remained nearly constant, while the production of silver has increased in the last four years about \$25,000,000.

WORLD'S COINAGE.

The aggregate coinage of the world, including recoinage, was as follows:

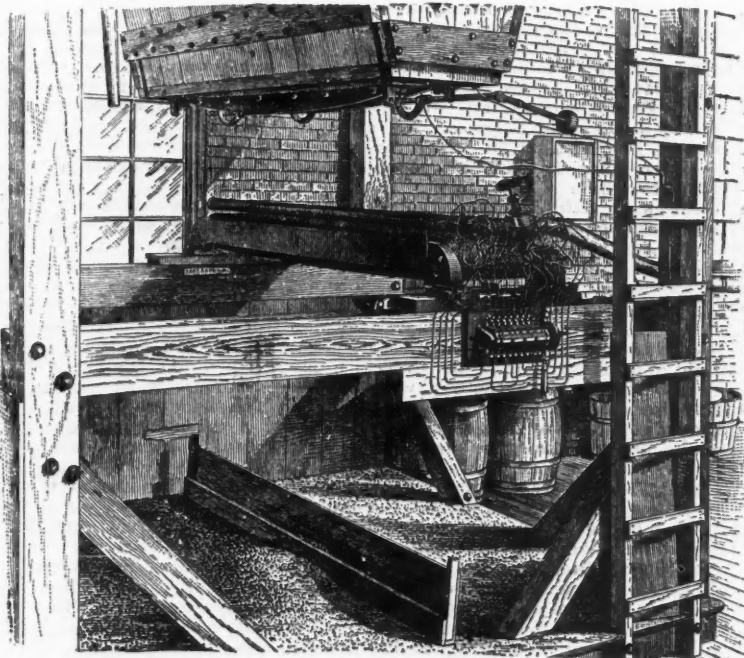
Calendar years.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
1884.....	\$90,432,795	\$95,832,084	\$186,264,879
1885.....	95,757,582	126,784,574	222,542,156
1886.....	94,642,070	124,854,101	219,496,171
1887.....	124,902,465	160,984,877	285,887,342

The director's report contains the usual tables, exhibiting the business of the mints and assay offices in detail, and the statistics of the coinage, production, and movement of the precious metals in the principal countries of the world.

Owing to the delay of authority from Congress to print the report of the director of the mint on production of the precious metals for the calendar year 1887, the two reports will be issued about the same time.

THE EDISON MAGNETIC SEPARATOR.

The principle upon which this separator is based is the deflecting by a powerful magnet of those particles in a mixture of ore and gangue which are magnetic, in their fall by its field. The quartz or other gangue falling by the magnet are not affected by its attraction. The particles of magnetite or of magnetic oxide are diverted from the vertical sufficiently to reach the floor at a point considerably removed from that which they would attain in a free fall. Given, then, a thin sheet of ore dropping by a broad magnet, the gangue accumulates immediately below the orifice from which the sheet fell, while the magnetic particles of the ore will be found separated from it. The accompanying engraving, from a photograph of the machine now in place at Edison's laboratory, at Llewellyn Park, N. J., and which, with the description, we reproduce from the *Iron Age*, will show how this principle has been carried out. We may state, however, that since the photograph was taken a number of minor changes have been made without affecting a general design. The crushed, dried and screened ore is delivered into the hopper, shown in our engraving. In the bottom of this hopper is a long slit, which can be closed by a sharp-edged casting, balanced by a counter weight. Below the hopper is mounted the magnet, a casting weighing 3 tons in this case, around which are wrapped a series of coils of wire. To regulate the power of the magnet, the arrangement provided is shown, by which any desired number of the coils can be arranged in multiple arc or in series. In the apparatus as now modified, this arrangement is put out of the way, being mounted on the top of the magnet instead of at the side. A dynamo furnishes a current of 25 to 80 amperes and 110 volts. A hand-wheel and screw have been recently



Edison's Magnetic Separator.

added to move the magnet forward or backward, as needed, scales being provided to record its exact position. In order to separate more sharply the gangue from the ore as it accumulates on either side of the projection to the floor of the line of the slot in the hopper, a slender movable partition is placed in position on the floor. There exists a narrow zone within which those particles collect which are only very slightly deflected particles of gangue, to which a minute speck of magnetite may adhere. In order to collect this material separately the partition is made in the form of a narrow box, which has been facetiously termed the "mugwump." Lately a scale has been attached to the floor and to the wall in order to facilitate the recording of the exact position of the "mugwump." Immediately above the magnet is a pipe with a series of perforations, through which jets of air, supplied by a fan, can be projected against the sheet of material to be concentrated should it be considered desirable to remove the dust from the ore. Experiments have been made on various ores with the Edison separator.

Some of the results obtained are given as follows :

SEPARATION OF NEW BED LEAN ORE, PORT HENRY.			
	Crude ore.	Concentrates.	Traillings.
Crushed to 20 mesh	Iron .....	69.90	7.67
	Phos. ....	0.03	0.08
Crushed to 10 mesh	Iron .....	70.90	7.80
	Phos. ....	0.025	0.41
Above 10 mesh. ...	Iron .....	66.80	18.70
	Phos. ....	0.032	0.085

The Old Bed ore is also high in phosphorus, and the experiments were made to determine to what extent this can be removed by magnetic separation, that element being present in the ore in the form of crystals of apatite.

SEPARATION OF OLD BED ORE, PORT HENRY.			
	Crude ore.	Concentrates.	Taillings.
Iron .....	59.5	69.15	7.10
Phosphorus .....	1.77	0.41	11.06
Iron .....	62.0	70.90	9.25
Phosphorus .....	1.46	0.18	10.54
Iron .....	64.20	71.20	9.00
Phosphorus .....	1.39	0.31	11.57
SEPARATION OF CROTON ORE.			
	Crude ore.	Concentrates.	Taillings.
Iron .....	37.37	64.72	11.04
Phosphorus .....	0.38	0.10	0.97

Mr. Edison has not confined himself to magnetites. He has experimented with roasting non-magnetic ores, in order to first convert its oxide into the magnetic oxide, and then putting it through his machine. The possibilities of handling titaniferous ores have also been taken into consideration. One of his machines is now being put up in Michigan, and others have been ordered.

The Last of the "Great Eastern."—A three days' sale by auction of the entire vessel and her fittings has taken place at Liverpool. The catalogue contained 693 lots, and as a rule satisfactory prices were obtained. The hull and fittings realized over £43,000, the copper bringing £2,960; the gun-metal, etc., £4,480; brass, £3,980; lead, £4,185; outer iron plates, £12,500; inner iron plates, beams and rivets, £12,230, and anchors, about £300. The engines and engine fittings sold for about £10,000 in addition, bringing up the total to more than £50,000. The breaking up of the steamer will commence on January 1st, will occupy a year, and will, it is estimated, cost in labor from 10s. to 15s. per ton of material.

Mineral Statistics of Italy.—The following is a summary of the report for 1886 of the Italian Inspector-General of Mines: "The metal and mineral works in activity in 1886 numbered 272, with 15,100 workmen. Of these there were: 11 blast-furnaces, with 248 hands; 233 iron and steel works, with 10,560 hands; 4 argentiferous gold works, with 79 hands; 1 lead and silver works, with 800 hands; 4 copper and alloys works, with 575 hands; 2 mercury works, with 393 hands; 2 antimony works, with 60 hands; 6 alum works, with 130 hands; 2 rock-salt works, with 215 hands; and 7 sea-salt works, with 2000 hands. The entire production during the year was valued at £2,483,200, of which iron and steel account for over 60 per cent (185,390 tons, valued at £1,578,100), of lead 19,500 tons, silver 33,800 kilogrammes, copper 2200 tons, sea-salt 354,000 tons, etc. The eleven blast-furnaces produced altogether 12,290 tons."

The Movements of the Earth's Crust.—A long series of observations has been carried out all over France since the year 1884 for the purpose of detecting any variations of level of the land. These observations have been carried out by men belonging to the Génie corps under specially selected officers. The result of this series of observations is most important. It would appear that a depression from south to north is in progress. While on the coast of the Gulf of Lyons no alteration of level has been noted on the line between Marseilles and Lille, a stretch of 820 kilometers, the ground is sinking towards the north at the various rate of 3 centimeters yearly. It is noteworthy that the direction of the sinking is complicated; it is about three times greater towards the northeast than in the direct line from south to north. The rate along the line of the meridian is about 1 millimeter yearly on every 27 kilometers; whereas it is 1 millimeter on every 10 kilometers in a northeasterly direction. Should this rate of depression continue, north-eastern France would, in the course of a few centuries, encounter a calamity similar to that which, at the end of the thirteenth century, befel the Netherlands.

Tests of Burning Oils in Philadelphia.—We recently called attention to the necessity for more careful regulation of the test requirements in illuminating oils permitted to be sold. We learn from the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter* that a public test of burning oils was made in Philadelphia last week under the supervision of the Retail Grocers' Association; which body had ordered it in view of the increasing number of explosions. Six barrels of oil were purchased, each from a different person and covered with paper so that the inspector could not see the brand on the head. About 2 o'clock a select party had gathered in the yard, and upon the arrival of E. W. Strain, the inspector, the test began. All the oil had been marked 150 degrees fire test. The first experiment made flashed at 128 degrees and ignited at 143; the gravity was 46½. The next flashed at 130 degrees and ignited at 150; gravity, 46. The third flashed at 120 degrees and ignited at 145; gravity, 46. The fourth flashed at 95 degrees and took fire at 105; gravity, 46. The fifth oil ignited at 120 degrees and began to burn at 125; gravity, 47. The sixth flashed at 130 degrees and took fire at 150; gravity, 46. Another oil purchased from a tank wagon flashed at 125 degrees, and took fire at 140; gravity, 46; same company's oil, but of 120 degrees fire test, found to be as represented.

New Method of Making Chrome-Manganese Iron.—A proposition has been made to utilize Bessemer slag, which consists in grinding it fine, adding chrome ore, and mixing these with tar, so as to form the mass into blocks, and then smelting them down in the blast-furnace. The product is chrome-manganese iron, the manganese emanating from the acid cinder. For instance, if Bessemer slag containing SiO<sub>2</sub> = 45 p.c., FeO = 10 p.c., MnO 45 p.c., is intimately incorporated with chrome ore of the following contents: Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> = 50 p.c., Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> = 12 p.c., Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> = 11 p.c., MgO 18 p.c., SiO<sub>2</sub> = 9 p.c., and the necessary carbon, and the mixture be reduced by melting, the following alloy will, approximately, be obtained: 20 p.c. Mn, 50 p.c. Cr, 26 p.c. Fe, together with a slag which contains, say, up to 50 p.c. SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1 to 2 p.c. FeO, 14 p.c. Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 18 p.c. MnO, 16 MgO, and only traces of Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The separation of the metal from the slag is perfect, because the Bessemer cinder forms an excellent solvent for the otherwise almost infusible earths accompanying the chrome ores, and again because the manganese in the chrome alloy—which, of course, will depend on the quality of the Bessemer slag employed—makes this metal quite fluid. The exact quantity of manganese in the alloy can, of course, be obtained by adding manganese ores as required.

Gas Fuel for Coke-Ovens.—The experiment of heating coke-ovens by natural gas has been tried in the Connellsville region with success says the *Pittsburg Times*. The Central Connellsville Coke Company supplied by the Southwest Natural Gas Company, has used it for some time and is satisfied with the results, as is the Walston Company, in Jefferson County, which has also tried it. The theory of the experiment is that by using wood to start the fire, time for warming up a cold oven is much longer and the first drawing of coke is of an inferior quality.

From the first results of the natural gas experiment, which gives first-class coke on the primary drawing, the idea has gained ground that the natural gas as a kindling will be universally adopted. A number of coke men expressed opinions on the subject yesterday, and the feeling was that the expense of the fixtures would be more than could be repaid by

the improved quality of the first drawing. A representative of the H. C. Frick Company said that he knew the first drawing of the ovens lit with wood or coal was of an inferior grade, but that it could be used in blast-furnaces. If any one who understood the practical working of ovens would think for a moment, they would see that they might run for two years continually, then perhaps lay off for anywhere from one to six months.

Now, a gas fixture that can only be used once in two and a half years would be rather an encumbrance. Some temporary provision might be made in the shape of a rubber pipe and burner, with fixtures which might be a good thing for ovens which did not work regularly. For a set of, say 100, ovens which were kept in constant fire no lighting apparatus was needed, and, as far as the first drawing is concerned, the  $\frac{3}{4}$  tons per oven which are fit for blast-furnaces would not entail any serious loss.

**The Severac and Goupillon Steel Railway Sleepers.**—The sleeper designed by M. Sévèrac consists of two wrought-iron plates riveted to the top and bottom of an upright double T piece, making a sort of box-sleeper, divided centrally by the T piece, and open at the sides, into which ballast can be packed. This sleeper is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, 8 inches wide, and 5 inches deep, thus resembling a wooden sleeper in size, but weighing, with the ballast, 330 pounds, instead of 154 pounds. A saddle of soft homogeneous and very strong metal, bolted or riveted on to the sleeper, receives the flat-bottomed rail, having a sloping surface to give the required cant to the rail, and formed with two projecting pieces which are hammered down to clip the rail on each side. In the sleepers tried on the Northern Railway of France, and with very satisfactory results on the North Belgian Railway, the projections on the saddle have been replaced by apertures, into which wedges are inserted for fixing the rail. The metal sleepers designed by Goupillon Brothers have a flat top, with flanges on each side dipping down into the ballast, forming a sort of bottomless box, 8 feet 10 inches long, 9 inches wide, and 4 inches deep. The saddle in this case is formed in the sleeper itself by a groove in a thickened portion of the top under each rail, which both receives the rail, gives it the requisite cant, and maintains the two rails at their proper gauge. The rails are fastened on to the sleeper by screw bolts. The sleeper for a 60-pound rail would weigh about 150 pounds. The details of the fastenings adopted by M. Stévenot, for connecting the rails firmly to the sleepers, while admitting of their rapid laying and removal, are then described. The Stévenot steel sleeper, 7 feet long and 2 inches deep, would not only last longer than wood sleepers, but would actually cost less, if allowance is made for the reduction in ballast due to the smaller length and depth of the steel sleeper. As, however, these sleepers are smaller than the types described above, and as there is a difference of opinion with regard to the cost of steel sleepers, the longer life of the metal sleepers, which may be reckoned at double that of wood sleepers, the smaller cost of maintenance, and the increasing cost of wood must be regarded as the main advantages in favor of metal sleepers.—*Annales des Travaux Publics, through Proc. Inst. Civ. Eng.*

**The Miners of Scotland.**—In Scotland there are three distinct types of men among the miners. There is the Scottish miner pure and simple, then there is the Scotch-Irish miner, and last, the miner who is altogether an Irishman. The first of these is unquestionably not only the best miner, but also the best man of the three. He has in most cases an education quite equal to that of a skilled artisan; he reads much, he thinks much, and has opinions of his own concerning himself and other people, which he is in no way slow to give expression to. The colliers of this stamp are the most part sober, steady and thrifty; not infrequently they own the houses they live in, and they never put any more of their sons than they can help to their own calling. The eldest boy, as a rule, must go down the pit, and it is an even chance with the second that he shall do so, too; but after that the lads are almost sure to be sent to work that is "above ground," as it is phrased. It frequently happens that lads of this class work in the pits till they are young men, and then take measures to give up the calling of a collier. I know clergymen and doctors of medicine who when young men were colliers, and found the means for their education by working in the pits during the summer months, while they attended the University of Edinburgh or Glasgow in the winter ones. This, of course, meant the cultivation of learning on a little oat meal, but young fellows such as I am referring to did not think much of that. From their boyhood up they had been accustomed to do a big darg on a spare diet, and cheerfully toiled away alternately with the pen and the pick until they achieved that on which they had set their hearts. Many a pinch, too, the old folks at home made to give "the laddies" a help in their time of struggle, and felt far more than repaid for all their self-denial when they saw John "wag his pow in a pu' pit," or found Sandy with a brass plate on his door with the letters M. D. after his name. Those, however, who aim at divinity and medicine are necessarily a small minority; the bulk of the youngsters who do not go into the pits, or go into them and afterwards leave them, take to the ordinary callings of a country district and become blacksmiths, carpenters, tailors and shoemakers, or join the ranks of the various shop-keeping occupations. Most of the officers about the colliery come from the same class, the overseers and roadmen under ground, the engine keepers and the pit-head staff above ground, being almost to a man Scotch colliers or the sons of such.—*Nineteenth Century.*

**Working Model of the Nicaragua Canal.**—At the American Institute Fair, in this city, there is on exhibition a working model of the projected Nicaragua Inter-oceanic Canal, showing vividly the entire canal route, and the topography of the section of country through which it passes. It is a bird's-eye view of a part of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. A striking presentation is afforded of the Lake of Nicaragua, the mountains and hills on the east and west of it, the San Juan river and valley, the basins of the Tola and the San Francisco, and the general course of the canal from ocean to ocean.

Between the two mountain ranges lies a great interior basin, about three hundred miles long by one hundred wide, in the center of which are the broad and beautiful lakes of Nicaragua and Managua; the characteristic and most important physical features of the country. These

lakes receive the waters which flow down from the mountains on either hand, and discharge them through a single outlet, the San Juan River, flowing through a narrow break in the Cordilleras into the Caribbean Sea.

The Lake of Nicaragua is represented on the model by a basin six inches deep, the surface being two inches above the level of the oceans, which stands for 110 feet, the height above mean tides of the summit level of the proposed canal. Into this basin water is introduced by a supply pipe under the side of one of the islands, and flows into the eastern and western sections of the canal over dams and through locks, falling into the sea at either end, where it is received in drains prepared for the purpose. Drains are provided also to carry off the overflow corresponding with the system of natural drainage along the route.

Tiny models of vessels pass through the canal, and are locked up and down by three locks each in the eastern and western sections. The size of the vessels and locks greatly exceeds the scale of the model, such exaggeration being unavoidable in this case.

There are numerous beautiful islands and peaks in the lake, of which the most conspicuous are shown on the model. Ometepe and Zapatero are more than 5000 feet above the surface, and are visible far out in the Pacific Ocean. On the principal islands, sector lights will mark, at night, the sailing line between the lake termini of the canal, and beacon lights dot the ends of piers and breakwaters.

This ingenious work is 20 feet long by 6 feet wide, and was designed and executed by Mr. Vaulx Carter, of Brooklyn, who is at the head of the Department of Mechanical Drawing and Mechanics of the Hebrew Technical Institute of New York. Mr. Carter was educated at Swarthmore College and at the U. S. Naval Academy.

**Colliery Explosion at Dour, Belgium.**—Mr. Geo. C. Andre, writing to the *Colliery Guardian*, says: The peculiarly dangerous character of the period including the early weeks of November has been again exemplified by a disastrous colliery explosion. Scarcely had the forty-eight bodies been removed from the exploded pit at Crousac, in France, when thirty-two miners were struck down by the same agency at Dour, in Belgium. The mines in this locality are very fiery. The St. Frederick pit, in which the accident happened, gives employment to some 400 hands. Of these about a fourth work in the night shift, in which the shot-firing is done. Dynamite is the explosive agent used. Safety-lamps were used exclusively. Most of the Belgian mines, but more particularly those of the Mons district, are subject to sudden outbursts of gas, and it seems that one of these outbursts occurred on the occasion under consideration. Thus the primary cause of the disaster is the same in both cases, at Dour as at Crousac.

The explosion occurred during the night in the upper workings, 1840 feet from surface and about 600 yards distant from the shaft. It is said that 80 hands, men, boys, and girls, were at work in this level on the night in question, 31 being occupied in a lower level. At the faces of work at or near which the explosion occurred, there were 35 persons, only three of whom escaped with their lives. The accident was made known at surface by a loud report, followed by a column of dust and smoke, projected from the shaft. Here, as in France, the explosion was very violent, the dead bodies being fearfully mutilated as well as burned. Among the dead are two girls of eighteen years of age. The men in the lower level neither heard nor felt the explosion. The result of the inspection of the workings has not yet been made publicly known, but the common opinion seems to be that the gas was ignited by a shot.

As bearing directly on the question of colliery explosions, Herr Stern, of Dortmund, read a paper before the German Mining Engineers' Association at Bochum on the necessity for some breathing apparatus which will enable a man to enter workings filled with after-damp. He points out the failure of all such apparatus hitherto devised. They are, he says, designed upon one of two principles. In one there is a purification or regeneration of the vitiated air; in the other pure air is conveyed to the nostrils through tubing from the outside. The former, which make use of the hydrate or the carbonate of lime, fail in consequence of the injurious action of those substances on the lungs. It is impossible to use them a sufficient length of time to do much good with them. Those of the latter class yet devised have been too complicated—only specially instructed men can employ them. The most successful of this class is that which is known in Germany as the "Löbsche apparatus. The writer had two years' experience with this apparatus, and feels no hesitation in declaring it to be the best yet experimented with. It is always ready for use, and needs no special training in the men who are called upon in an emergency to use it.

#### 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 page of the Journal.]

*The Lake Superior Copper Properties.* By Henry M. Pinkham, Boston. Pages, 102. Price 25 cents.

#### PATENTS GRANTED BY THE UNITED STATES PATENT-OFFICE.

The following is a list of the patents relating to mining, metallurgy, and kindred subjects, issued by the United States Patent-Office.

##### PATENTS GRANTED DECEMBER 4TH, 1888.

- 333,794. Horse-Power. Charles E. Sutton, Richmond, Ohio.  
 333,805. Rolling-Mill. Franklin H. Wright, Lake View, Ill.  
 333,808. Device for Drawing Wire Rods. Aaron P. Baldwin and Reuben Hadfield, Akron, Ohio.  
 333,832. Process of Manufacturing Zinc. Henry A. Hunicke, St. Louis, Mo.  
 333,850. Hydrocarbon-Furnace for Steam-Boilers. Frank W. Orfeldt, Newark, N. J.  
 333,856. Blowing-Engine. Edwin Reynolds, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 333,879. Leveling-Instrument. Aaron T. Binker, Allegheny, Pa.  
 333,897. Water-Motor. Samuel B. Goff, Camden, N. J.  
 333,905. Pulverizing-Machine. James W. Hilton, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 333,943. Steam Pumping Engine. John H. Valle, Dayton, Ohio.  
 334,091. Method of Making Aluminum Alloys. William A. Baldwin, Chicago, Ill.  
 334,112. Gold-Separating Apparatus. John S. George, Newport, Ore.  
 334,127. Apparatus for Cooling Coke. Daniel R. Murphy, Greensburg, Pa.  
 334,136. Feed-Water Heater. Philip Rohan, St. Louis, Mo.  
 334,137. Feed-Water Heater. Philip Rohan, St. Louis, Mo.



# THE METALLURGY OF STEEL.\*

By Henry M. Howe.

(Continued from page 418.)

Osmond recognizes three chief irregularities in these curves. Those which occur during heating he terms  $a_c$ , those during cooling  $a_r$ : those which occur at the lowest temperature he names  $a_{c1}$  and  $a_{r1}$ : those at the intermediate and highest temperatures he names  $a_{c2}$ ,  $a_{c3}$ ,  $a_{r2}$  and  $a_{r3}$  respectively. When he thinks that two or all of these irregularities coalesce, he gives them such names as  $a_{c2-1}$  and  $a_{r3-2-1}$ .

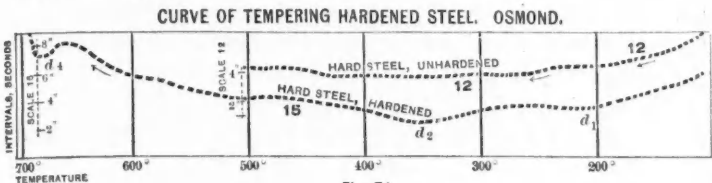


Fig. 71

Under favorable conditions H. Tomlinson detects as many as seven recalescences during the cooling of iron from whiteness: two decided ones are generally noticed, one between 500° and 1,000° C., the other below 500°.

In the series of irons experimented on by Osmond, detailed in Table 87 A, we find that the position of two of these elevations,  $a_{r1}$  and  $a_{r3}$ , is tolerably constant for given conditions of heating and cooling, and nearly independent of chemical composition.  $a_{r1}$  is raised only 14° C. by increase of carbon from 0.05 to 1.25%; but it is lowered about 40° by an increase of manganese from 0.27 to 1.08%. The higher the temperature which precedes cooling and the more rapid the cooling, the lower is  $a_{r1}$  for steels with 0.57 and 1.25% of carbon.

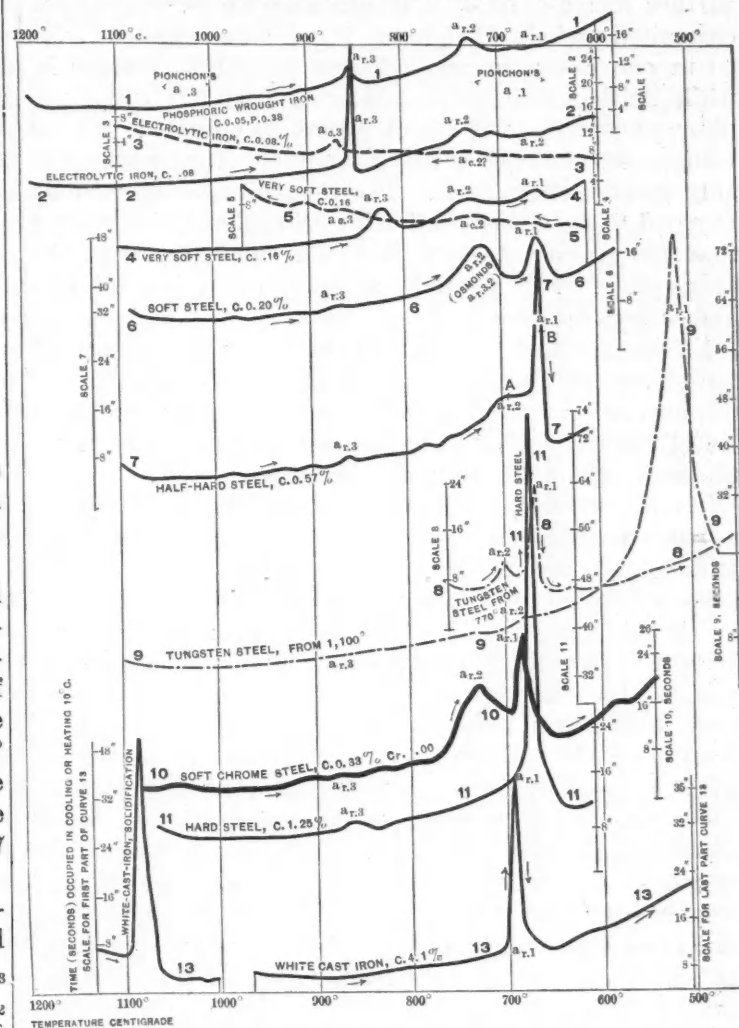
The statement that the position of  $a_{r3}$  is nearly independent of composition is on my own authority, and directly opposed Osmond's view. According to him  $a_{r3}$  descends rapidly with increasing carbon, merging in  $a_{r2}$ .

\* Copyright by the Scientific Publishing Company, 1887.

a Jour. Iron and Steel Inst., 1888, I., p. 355, from Trans. Proc. Phys. Soc., London, IX., pp. 107-122.

when the carbon reaches 0.20%. Here, however, he appears to strain the facts to fit his theory. The reader can verify from Figure 71 the existence, in 8 out of the 9 cooling

Fig. 71. CURVES OF COOLING AND HEATING, OSMOND.



curves, of a slight rise whose crest lies within the narrow limits 815° and 872° C.

TABLE 87 A.—RETARDATIONS IN THE HEATING AND COOLING CURVES OF IRON. OSMOND AND PIONCHON (FIG. 71).

Number.	Description of metal.	No. of curve in fig. 71.	Composition, per cent.					a <sub>3</sub> .				a <sub>2</sub> .				a <sub>1</sub> .			
			C.	Si.	Mn.	P.	S.	Limit.	Max.	Limit.	Size.	Limit.	Max.	Limit.	Size.	Limit.	Max.	Limit.	Size.
Unhardened metal.																			
A.	Iron by hydrogen, Pionchon.	1	Heating					1,050	855	1,000					720	660			
C.	Phosphoric iron	1	Cooling	.05	.08	tr.	.38	.02											
D.	Electrolytic iron	2	Cooling	.08					855	855	855								
E.	" "	3	Heating						900	867	840								
F.	Extra soft steel, basic open-hearth	4	Cooling	.16	.01	.11	.03	.02	845	822	800								
G.	The same	4	Heating						920	900	835								
H.	Soft steel, basic Bessemer	6	Cooling	.29	.06	.27	.05	.06		865									
I.	Half-hard steel, acid open-hearth	7	Cooling	.57	.08	.23	.05	.02		869									
J.	The same	7	Heating						Not examined.										
K.	Hard steel, crucible	11	Cooling	1.25	.19	.10	.02	.02		859									
L.	The same	15	Heating																
M.	White cast iron, Swedish	13	Cooling	4.10	.22	.22	.02	.04											
N.	Basic Bessemer steel,		"	.32	.05	.50	.05	.02		855									
O.	% of manganese		"	.42	.03	1.00	.09	.03		865									
P.	varying.		"	.46	.07	1.05	.07	.03		860									
Q.	Tungsten steel, tungsten 8.4%	8-9	Cooling	.71	.11	.73	.01	.04											
R.	Chrome steel	10	"	.33				1.00		872									
S.	"	"	"	5@.6				2.00											
T.	"	"	"	2.00				10.0@.12											
U.	Redshort (sulphurous) basic Bessemer steel		Cooling	.48	.08	.51	.16	.23		810									

Accelerations in heating (tempering) curves of hardened steel.

			d <sub>4</sub> .		d <sub>2</sub> .		d <sub>1</sub> .
V.	Half-hard steel (same as number I)	Heating			345	Slight	
W.	Hard steel (same as number K)	"	680	Moderate	353	Strong	310

a Hardened steel. Italics and heavy-faced type refer to heating, i. e. to rising temperature: the others to falling temperature.

The height of  $a_{r1}$  and perhaps also that of  $a_{r3}$  varies greatly with the composition.  $a_{r1}$ , insignificant in iron with .05 or .08% of carbon, increases constantly and very greatly with rising carbon till this reaches 1.25%: with further increase to 4% it again decreases. Increasing chromium probably heightens it, as does tungsten (3.5%,  $\pm$ ) in one case: in another case tungsten shortens it, while neither manganese (changing from 0 to 1.08%) sulphur, phosphorus nor silicon seems to affect it. 20% of manganese, however, effaces it, and 6.3% of tungsten probably greatly shortens it. The temperature assigned by Osmond to  $a_{r1}$  agrees well with Pionchon's observation that the specific heat of iron was much higher in the range 660° to 720° C. than at lower or at immediately higher temperatures.

I trace no simple relation between the percentage of carbon and the height of  $a_{r3}$ . Neither chromium, silicon, sulphur, silicon, nor phosphorus nor a little manganese (1.08%) seems to affect it, but it is missing in ferro-manganese, in white cast-iron, and in tungsten steel.

In one case only, that of electrolytic iron, curve 2, does  $a_{r3}$  reach a considerable height, and here its height may be due not to the relative freedom from carbon, but to some individual peculiarity of the specimen tested, for  $a_{r3}$  in this same specimen is very short: further,  $a_{r3}$  is short in phosphoric iron, number 1, which has still less carbon. Pionchon noticed no absorption of heat in this range, but he found one at a much higher temperature, about 1050° C., both in very pure commercial iron and in iron reduced by pure hydrogen from pure ferric oxide.

While  $a_{r1}$  and  $a_{r3}$  seem to be distinct entities, as much cannot be said confidently of  $a_{r2}$ . Those retardations which are called  $a_{r2}$  vary so much in position and height in different steels as to suggest that they are not due to the same cause. Grouping them provisionally as  $a_{r2}$ , we note that, with rising carbon, the temperature of this retardation falls continuously, from 727° with 0.05% of carbon to 695° with carbon 0.57%, now nearly merging in  $a_{r1}$ , which seems to swallow it completely when 1.25 or 4.1% of carbon is present. As manganese rises from 0.27 to 1.08%,  $a_{r2}$  falls some 63° C., of which 35° may be due to the simultaneous rise of carbon. With 20% of manganese it is no longer visible. Rising tungsten in one case raises, in another almost effaces it: sulphur perhaps raises it: but neither chromium, phosphorus nor silicon changes its position.

Its height seems on the whole to increase with rising carbon, but not constantly, and perhaps with rising chromium; but it is lessened by tungsten, while rising manganese lessens and finally effaces it. Silicon, sulphur and phosphorus do not seem to affect its height.

$a_c$  has been studied much less than  $a_r$ . Only two elevations can in general be traced, and these seem much less marked than those with falling temperature. The upper one is slightly above  $a_{r3}$ , and probably corresponds to it: and hence may be called  $a_{c3}$  provisionally. The second lies between  $a_{r1}$  and  $a_{r2}$ : Osmond calls it  $a_{c1}$  in some cases,  $a_{c2}$  in others, implying that it corresponds to  $a_{r1}$  in the former and to  $a_{r2}$  in the latter: but this correspondence seems to be very doubtful except in the case of steel with 1.25% of carbon, with which a very strongly marked elevation occurs at 705° C., 31° higher than  $a_{r1}$ : this may well be called  $a_{c1}$ .

When hardened steel is reheated, three if not four depressions occur between the common temperature and 680° C. (V). We may name the lowest of these  $d_1$ , the others  $d_2$ ,  $d_3$ , etc.

§ 258. DISCUSSION. Of these flexures, two only,  $a_{r2}$  and  $a_{r1}$ , seem to have definite positions.  $a_{r2}$  indeed seems to vary with some regularity: but beyond these we find two three or even more flexures. In the cooling-curve of electrolytic iron eight distinct flexures exist. Osmond often classes two distinct elevations as one, *e. g.* that marked  $a_{r2}$  and the one at its right in the cooling curve of electrolytic iron (3): in other cases he assumes that one elevation really consists of two or even three, *e. g.* the great elevation in the cooling-curve (11) of steel with 1.25% of carbon, which he terms  $a_{r123}$ . For the assumptions, apparently deemed essential to his theory, I see little warrant.

$a_{r1}$  is probably a phenomenon of the after-glow, of the rapid change from hardening to cement carbon (this Osmond admits) and from hard to soft steel. This is indicated by its absolute position, 700° C., (1,300° F., a dull red), and by the fact that its height is roughly proportional to the intensity of these changes. Let  $H$  = the ratio of the hardness in the quenched to that of the slowly cooled state, or the intensity of the hardness-change,  $I$  = the intensity of the after-glow, and  $J$  = the height of  $a_{r1}$ .

As carbon increases from 0.05% to 1.25%,  $H$ ,  $I$  and  $J$  increase apparently continuously and roughly proportionally, from insignificant to most striking phenomena: before the carbon rises high enough to form white cast-iron, however, both  $H$  and  $J$  have diminished somewhat. A moderate quantity, say 1% of manganese apparently affects neither  $H$ ,  $I$  nor  $J$  seriously, and the same may be true of a little chromium:<sup>b</sup> a large proportion of manganese, as in ferro-manganese and Hadfield's steel, greatly diminishes or effaces all three.<sup>a</sup> In regard to tungsten alone have we even an apparent anomaly. A large proportion, say 6%, of tungsten greatly diminishes if it does not efface  $H$  and  $I$ : while in curves 8 and 9 3.47% in one case lessens, in another enormously increases  $a_{r1}$ . Our data are too scanty for analysis: but it may be doubted whether this small proportion of tungsten would greatly diminish  $H$  and  $I$ ; and, further, the great retardation in curve 9 lies so much below the temperature of  $a_{r1}$  in all the other curves, that we may reasonably doubt whether it really is  $a_{r1}$ : it may well represent some other change within the metal.

As sudden cooling prevents the heat-yielding change from hardening to cement carbon, it is natural that when hardened steel is reheated, and while its carbon is gradually changing to cement, heat should be evolved, causing the depressions  $d_1$ , etc., in the heating-curve number 15 of Figure 71.

$d_1$  seems to occur at the same temperature as the temporary weakening of hardened steel noted in § 255. It will be interesting to see whether a second weakening occurs at 353°, corresponding to  $d_2$ .

(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.

<sup>a</sup> "Manganese," R. A. Hadfield, p. 77: Excerpt Min. Proc. Inst. Civ. Eng., XCHL., 1887-8.

<sup>b</sup> I find a surprising if accidental correspondence between my observations and Osmond's. When I first tried chrome steels I failed to note the after-glow: on repeating the experiment I found to my surprise a very marked after-glow. I attributed my failure to notice it the first time to malobservation: but I now find from Osmond's experiments that, if the initial temperature is low, say 800° C., chrome steel shows but an arrest of cooling at  $a_{r1}$ : while, if slowly cooled from 1100° C., a very marked rise of temperature occurs at  $a_{r1}$ : thus my failure was probably due to not heating high enough initially.

PERSONAL.

Mr. James F. Wilson, of Harney Peak fame, according to Dakota papers, is expected there this month.

Mr. Samuel T. Ross, Secretary and Treasurer of the Maryland Coal Company, died very suddenly on Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. H. J. Allen, of Bellevue, Idaho, is in New York endeavoring to obtain capital to work a copper property situated in Nevada.

Mr. Sylvester Bowman, a well known Boston merchant and president of the Magee Furnace Company, died in that city on the 2d inst.

Mr. Thomas Cosgrove, an experienced Montana millwright, will start for China shortly to erect a quartz mill there for Messrs. Frazer & Chalmers, of Chicago.

Mr. O. B. Morris, General Manager of the St. Helens Smelting Company, Trinidad, Colorado, is actively engaged preparing for the construction of the company's plant.

Mr. Samuel A. Beckett, President of the Beckett Foundry and Machine Company, will be at the company's branch office in New York Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 2:30 P. M.

Prof. J. F. Elsom, chemist, of New Albany, Indiana, delivered an address on Brick Efflorescence; its Cause and Cure, before the annual meeting of the National Brick Association, which convened at Memphis, Tenn., last month.

Mr. A. H. Danforth has resigned from the position of general manager of the Colorado Coal and Iron Company, of Colorado. He had been vice-president and general manager nine years. Mr. J. Depuy, of New York, has been appointed his successor.

The collection of rocks and minerals belonging to the state geological office has recently been removed to Houghton by Dr. M. E. Wadsworth, state geologist of Michigan. It has been kept heretofore in Marquette, the home of the late Prof. Charles E. Wright, Dr. Wadsworth's predecessor in office.

Messrs. John Charlton M. P. William Coe and Archibald Blue, members of the Canadian Mining Commission, have left Toronto for Washington, where they will spend some time investigating the mining laws of the different States. Their information will be incorporated in suggestions they are expected to make in their report to the government.

The Central Trust Company, of New York, began proceedings in the Circuit Court at Chicago, on the 1st inst., to foreclose mortgages aggregating \$330,000 given by John E. Burton and his wife, Lucretia D. Burton, to the Trust Company and the Burton Manufacturing Company to John E. Burton. All of the mortgages were executed last year. The New York & Gogebic Investment Company is made a party to the suit.

The project of a trip of the American engineering societies for a joint visit to Europe is beginning to take tangible form. E. N. Carbutt, President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, of London, has tendered an invitation to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the latter have now issued a preliminary circular, asking members of the three societies, the Civil, Mechanical and Mining Engineers, to inform the committee, W. R. Hutton and W. R. Wiley, whether they can attend.

General Thomas J. Powers, one of the oldest civil engineers in this country, died in Rochester, Pa., on the 1st inst., aged 81 years. He built the Erie Canal and the famous Portage Railroad over the Allegheny Mountains, which gave the first rail communication between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. He built the Rome & Oswego Railroad in New York State, the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, and the great locks on the Kanawha River, in West Virginia. During the rebellion he had charge of the military routes in and about the District of Columbia. He was President of the old Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad.

The trustees of Columbia College, New York, at a meeting held this week decided that hereafter all architects in the third and fourth year classes of the School of Mines will be obliged to study plumbing and masonry at the New York trade schools, and money to defray the expenses of such instruction was appropriated. The course in chemistry for the graduate department was changed from analytical to medical. In the mining engineering course, quantitative analysis was made obligatory in the second term of the fourth year. Another change is that seniors in the School of Arts will be permitted to take drawing as an optional, and a tutorial fellow will be appointed in physics, in place of the prize fellows, who have heretofore occupied the position.

The third annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, to be held at St. Louis, commencing on next Tuesday, promises to be one of the most important labor meetings held this year. Especial interest attaches to the convention, as the Federation has made such wonderful strides within a comparatively recent time. A couple of years ago, with but a few members, it was alluded to as the infant rival of the Knights of Labor. To-day it has 325,000 members, and it is thought nearly 100,000 will be added at the coming convention by the admission of all the organized miners. It has been learned that an important resolution regarding assessments is likely to be passed.

This will provide that each member be assessed 5 cents per week, which would in a short time amount to a large fund. It is proposed that a law be passed that if a trades union is in trouble and needs assistance that the general head of the Federation be appealed to and this fund be drawn upon to help such trades.

On Tuesday evening, a number of gentlemen interested in the formation of a social club to be called the Engineers' Club, whose object is to draw more closely together those engaged in the kindred pursuits, met at the rooms of the American Society of Civil Engineers, in this city. The organization was perfected, the incorporators being: James A. Burden, H. R. Towne, J. C. Bayles, A. C. Rand, David Williams, B. S. Church, Edward Copper, Thos. Egleston, W. G. Hamilton, J. F. Holloway, W. A. Ferry, J. C. Pratt, R. W. Raymond, and F. S. Witherbee. Its present officers are: James A. Burden, President; H. R. Towne and James C. Bayles, Vice-Presidents; A. C. Rand, Treasurer, and David Williams, Secretary. The responses received at an earlier stage of the movement encourage the belief that the new club will start with a large and representative membership. A circular is soon to be issued to members of the three great engineering societies, inviting their co-operation and placing before them the details. We may state that engineers residing within 150 miles of New York are eligible for membership, the initiation fee being \$50 and the annual dues \$35. For non-resident members the admission fee is \$50 and the annual dues \$20.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Keystone Rolling Mill, of Reading, Pa., shut down on the 4th inst. for a month.

Seyfert's Rolling Mill at Naomi, Pa., will resume in all departments on the 10 inst., after four weeks' lock-out, resulting from the objection of the puddlers to their foreman. The foreman to whom they objected remains.

Furnace No. 2 of the Ensley plant at Ensley City, Ala., went into blast last week. Each of the three furnaces now in active operation produces 150 tons daily. Furnace No. 1, the last of the plant, will go into operation not later than February 1st, 1889.

An engine on the Toledo, Columbus & Southern Railroad drew a passenger train from Toledo to Findlay, Ohio, on the 5th inst. on a fuel furnished by crude petroleum. The trial is said to be a success, and according to reports all engines will be arranged for the use of oil.

It is reported that English shipbuilding firms have offered to build for the Canadian Government three express steamers of 7500 tons apiece, to steam not less than 20 knots an hour, and make the passage between Halifax and Plymouth in five days and to Rimouski in five or six hours longer.

The Standard Oil Company is projecting the construction of a pipe line from Lima, Ohio, to St. Louis, for the transportation of oil for distribution over Southern and Southwestern States. The St. Louis line is to be built like the one already in use between Lima and Chicago. Work will be commenced in the spring.

It is reported that Mr. H. C. Thurber, of Marquette, Mich., has organized a company and bought the Sarnia oil refinery. As soon as the necessary stills, etc., have been placed, he will begin the refining of petroleum in Canada. The object is to demonstrate the utility of the new process invented by a Buffalo scientist, to which we referred in a previous issue.

Thomas G. Boyle & Co., iron brokers, of Pittsburg, Pa., on the 3d inst., it is reported, purchased 20,000 kegs of nails from a number of Western factories. This, with the 35,000 kegs purchased by this firm last month, makes the largest purchase ever recorded in Pittsburg, and, the firm claims, will exhaust the stock on the market, and the production until next April, thus giving them a corner in nails.

The Henderson Steel and Manufacturing Company, at Birmingham, Ala., has been in successful operation since November 26th. On the 2d inst., the company shipped to Chattanooga two car loads of medium hard steel to be used by the Lookout Rolling Mill Company. The steel will be made into car springs, locomotive springs, etc. There is said to be a big demand for this steel from all quarters.

Upon application of citizens of Maple Grove, a village in the eastern end of Berks County, Pa., the Eureka Dynamite Company has been restrained from manufacturing dynamite and other high explosives. The report of ex-Judge Sassaman, Master in Chancery, has just been filed. He takes the ground that dynamite is too dangerous an article to be made near dwelling houses, and the works should be more isolated.

The Boughton Acid Works, located at Boughton Switch, three miles from Titusville, Pa., were burned on November 30th, the property of the American Chemical and Manufacturing Company, of Cleveland, entailing a loss to Marsh, Harwood & Co. of \$70,000. The fire was caused by stray acid eating the natural gas pipe that furnished the fuel. The works have furnished all the refining interests of this section with the acid used in the manufacture of refined oil.

We learn that Messrs. Eugene Kelly, of New York, and Patricio Milmo, of Monterey, Mexico, have somewhat changed their iron and steel project for northern Mexico, to which we referred in our issue of Septem-

ber 8th. It appears that they are now to have no English partners in the scheme and that in place of investing \$2,000,000 in the enterprise they will now be content with an outlay of \$1,000,000, and it is stated that the Bessemer steel plant will be given up for the present.

The furnace at Trussville, built by the Birmingham Mining and Manufacturing Company, of Alabama, went into blast last week. The plant has a capacity of 100 tons per day. The new furnace was christened as the "Janie Hogssett." The officers of the company are: Robert Hogssett, President; Judge Ewing, Treasurer; R. D. Smith, of Birmingham, Secretary, and Mr. Fuller Hogssett, General Manager. The probabilities are that work on furnace No. 2 will be begun as soon as operations have fairly begun in the one already built.

Apparently the electric railways or some of them are going to stand the ordeal of snow-storms well, and the system that has first been tested is the Sprague. On November 9th, St. Joseph, Mo., was visited by a very severe snow-storm, interrupting business and communication with the rest of the country, but according to the *Daily Gazette*, neither inconvenience nor delay resulted to the service of the electric street railway—with the use of two-fifths the capacity of the plant the usual number of cars were operated, and made the usual time. Not a wire was broken down or post strained, while telegraph and telephone wires were down in all directions.

BURSTING OF THE BESSEMER STEEL GUN.—At the second test of the Bessemer cast steel gun at the proving grounds at the Naval Academy this week, the gun burst into about twenty pieces, breaking the heavy-timbered platform it was on into fragments. The first charge was thirty-six pounds, the second forty-eight—the regulation charge. The gun, made of Bessemer cast steel by the Pittsburg Steel Casting Company, was 16 feet 1 inch in length, and weighed 10,000 pounds. It was charged with forty-eight pounds of powder and shot a concave ball of 100 pounds. Ensign Robert Dashiell, one of the officers who made the test, said the experiment proves that Bessemer cast steel will not do for great guns; it has not the elasticity nor the tensile strength. The gun exploded under a pressure of 14.1 tons to the square inch.

CONTRACTING NOTES.

Our list of machinery and supplies wanted will be found on page xi. Manufacturers of machinery, engineers and contractors should also consult our directory of "Contracts Open" on page xii. This week, proposals are invited for the following new contracts: No. 1204, Constructing Reservoir; No. 1205, Construction of Water-Works System; No. 1206, Completion of Water-Works; No. 1207, Dredging; No. 1208, Harbort Improvement; No. 1209, Metal Work; No. 1210, Building Wrought Iron Bridge and Construction of Private Railway Line.

It is announced that the Dutch government is ready to receive tenders for the construction of nine metal bridges, to cross the State railways in the Island of Sumatra. Application must be made to the Colonial Office (Technical Department), at The Hague, Holland.

GENERAL MINING NEWS.

Important conventions of the Federation of Miners and Mine Laborers and District Assembly No. 135 of the Knights of Labor, which were this week in session at Columbus, O., on the 6th inst. decided that the name of the new organization shall be the National Progressive Union of Miners and Mine Laborers, and the organization is to be open. The officers are to be president and treasurer and general executive board of seven members. The vice-presidents are to be organizers, and all the officers are to be salaried with the exception of the executive board. The president will receive \$1200, and the others a less sum.

Shipments of iron ore from the mines of the districts mentioned below for the season up to and including November 28th, as reported by the *Marquette Mining Journal*, were as follows:

	Tons.	Tons.
	1888.	1887.
Marquette, Marquette District.....	844,694	803,411
St. Ignace, ".....	107,399	91,544
Escanaba, ".....	863,309	869,296
" Menominee District.....	1,111,220	1,151,711
" Gogebic District.....	206,923	51,701
Ashland, ".....	1,016,414	1,040,727
Two Harbors, Vermillion District.....	450,475	390,467
Total tons.....	4,600,434	4,398,857

TENNESSEE COAL, IRON AND RAILROAD COMPANY.—The official report for November shows that there were received directly from the mines 14,721 tons of coal and 13,155 tons of coke. For the eleven months of 1888 a total of 158,672 tons of coal and 138,007 tons of coke.

[Special report by Mr. H. M. Johnson, Chicago.] It has been many months since there was a much activity in mining matters on the Gogebic Iron Range as at present. Mines and options which have been idle many months have resumed work, and there is every indication that the production of 1889 will surpass that of this year by nearly one fourth. The output this year from the Gogebic Range now foots up nearly 1,400,000 tons, and of this amount the "Norrie" mines have produced about 400,000, Colby over 300,000, and several of the mines have shipped 100,000 and over. Several of the mines west of Hurley, which have















it was stated in regard to virgin ground explored on the 250-foot level containing a body of ore of considerable homogeneity 95 feet in its greatest length with a probable extreme width of about 85 feet " that the new development presented a most promising looking ore-body, which when taken together with the column of ore of similar character exposed during the summer on the 119-foot level, offers an ore-body of approximately 193 feet in height which will take some three years more to exhaust with our twenty-stamp and crushing mill."

In addition to this, Mr. Julius Leszynsky stated that in a conversation with Mr. Macy about a month ago he had learned that the mine was in a most excellent condition. A stockholder then referred to the last issue of the ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL, in which Mr. Macy was quoted as saying that the mine was nearly worked out. General Jordan stated that Mr. Macy was reputed to be a mining engineer of high standing as well as a man of integrity. It was unfortunate, however, said a gentleman, that Mr. Macy was not present to explain these discrepancies between his last annual report, together with his statement to Mr. Leszynsky and his published statement, corroborated by President Noble's letter. Mr. Chisolm was asked if Mr. Macy had been asked to attend the meeting. This question seemed to disconcert the representatives of Messrs. A. R. Chisolm & Co., of whom there were four or five, and from a number of explanations that were hurriedly put forward, it was learned that Mr. Macy had not been personally invited, although "he must have seen the advertisement."

A resolution was then proposed by Messrs. A. R. Chisolm & Co. to the effect that a committee be appointed to protect the Eastern stockholders,

and that such committee should "demand proper representation in the Board of Trustees;" that a transfer-office be established in this city; and that one of the Eastern members of the Board of Trustees be elected Vice-President, so that certificates could be signed here. A gentleman pertinently remarked that the way to "demand representation" was to carry the stock to the annual meeting and elect satisfactory officers, and that the resolution to make one of the Eastern trustees vice-president was rather premature. But Mr. Chisolm considered this as trifling, and after a series of graceful maneuvers the meeting was brought to an appropriate close by the selection of a committee consisting of Mr. A. R. Chisolm and two others, who were to be chosen by that gentleman. Before closing with a fitting quotation, such as "all's well that ends well," it should be stated that General Jordan intends to announce in this week's Financial and Mining Record that Messrs. A. R. Chisolm & Co believe that "there is virgin ground in the property of the Silver King Company, likely to produce as good ore as any in the Silver King itself, that should be thoroughly prospected and exploited—for we know of no district, either in the United States, Mexico or South America, in which a single mine so rich as the Silver King has shown itself to be, has proved to be entirely isolated or without a companion."

It has been suggested that the meaning of this is that the principal parties in this movement are directly or indirectly interested in a property adjoining the Silver King, and naturally want at least the shadow of a bonanza on their property, even if this shadow be only in popular belief.

The Present Condition of the Silver King Mine.— Since the Silver King is now attracting much atten-

tion, the ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL has obtained from thoroughly well-informed and reliable sources the following full information concerning the past and present of the mine. This data may be relied upon as absolutely correct:

Since Mr. Macy took charge of the property in 1883, he developed the fact by extensive surveying and mapping, that there existed between the surface and the 800 level, two entirely distinct pay shoots lying within the great porphyritic mass constituting the "King ore-body," and enclosed by the well-defined and enveloping syenitic porphyry.

Long before the second pay shoot showed sign of exhaustion, he began opening out and developing the upper or first pay shoot, at the 250 level, as a protective measure. This upper pay shoot had been cross cutted on the 250 and 300 levels in early days, but had never been further developed or operated. The visible indications in the ground as it stood, were not favorable, but with much faith the work was prosecuted, with the result of opening into a fine body of ore on the 250 level sill floor which yielded largely and provided several dividends. The annual report of January 1st, 1888, refers to an obstacle encountered as back-stoping progressed on this level, and the development of a second body of pay ground above.

This latter ground was extracted and milled during the first three months of this year, but came to an abrupt termination in the roof of the fifth floor, which, while of characteristic constituency as a matter of gauge, was sufficiently devoid of mineralization to be of any profit. As the indications of unfavorable ground appeared, attention was at once turned to the 300, which was quickly made ready for active extraction, and provided the large output of the present summer. These successful and disappointing circumstances

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF METALS AT NEW YORK NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 3, AND FROM JANUARY 1.

Table with multiple columns listing various metal types (Spelter, Zinc Sheets, Pig Lead, Antimony, Copper, Nickel, Tin, Steel Sheets, Forgings, Tin Plates, Bar-Iron, Sheet Iron, Scrap Iron, Steel and Iron Rods, Charcoal Iron) and their respective quantities and values for different periods.

CURRENT PRICES.

Table of current prices for various commodities including chemicals, acids, alkalis, and minerals. Columns list item names and prices per unit.

Table of current prices for building materials and metals. Columns list items like bricks, cement, iron, and various metals with their respective prices.

Table of current prices for iron and steel products. Columns list items such as pig iron, steel blooms, and various grades of steel with prices.

Table of Philadelphia prices for various goods and services. Columns list items like foundry products, steel, and other materials with prices.

Table of stock market quotations for Baltimore, Md. and Birmingham, Ala. Columns list company names and their stock prices.

DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

NON-DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

Main table with columns: NAME AND LOCATION OF COMPANY, CAPITAL STOCK, SHARES, ASSESSMENTS, DIVIDENDS, and NON-DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES. Includes entries for Adams, A. L., Alice, A. C., Alturas, A., Amy & Silvermine, etc.

G. Gold, S. Silver, L. Lead, C. Copper. \* Non-assessable. † The Deadwood previously paid \$275,000 in eleven dividends, and the Terra \$75,000. ‡ Previous to the consolidation in Aug., 1884, the California had paid \$31,389,000 in dividends, and the Con. Virginia, \$94,500,000. \*\* Previous to the consolidation of the Copper Queen with the Atlanta, Aug., 1885, the Copper Queen had paid \$1,350,000 in dividends. †† 1,000,000.

NEW YORK MINING STOCKS QUOTATIONS.

DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES

NON-DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES

Table with columns for Name and Location of Company, Dec. 1-7, Sales, and Name and Location of Company, Dec. 1-7, Sales. Lists various mining companies and their stock prices.

Ex. dividend. †Dealt in at the New York Stock Ex. Unlisted Securities ‡Assessment unpaid. Dividend shares sold, 22,179. Non-dividend shares sold, 59,735 Total New York, 81,914

BOSTON MINING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Table with columns for Name of Company, Nov. 30, Dec. 1-6, Sales, and Name of Company, Nov. 30, Dec. 1-6, Sales. Lists various mining companies and their stock prices.

Boston: Dividend shares sold, 16,176. Non-dividend shares sold, 7,105. Total Boston, 23,281.

COAL STOCKS.

Table with columns for Name of Company, Par val. of sh's, Dec. 1-7, Sales. Lists various coal companies and their stock prices.

San Francisco Mining Stock Quotations.

Table with columns for Company, Closing Quotations (Nov. 30, Dec. 1-6). Lists various mining companies and their stock prices.

\*Bid. †Asked. \*Of the sales of this stock, 75,941 were in Philadelphia, and 293,236 in New York. Total sales, 568,739.

