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A GREAT UNDERTAKING.

Some Interesting Details in Regard to the Cerberite Manufacturing Company, Recently Incorporated With a Capital of \$1,000,000.

A GREAT PLANT ESTABLISHED.

Many Large Orders for Cerberite Already Secured—The Process of Manufacture One of the Great Discoveries of the Age—While Greatly Superior to Dynamite in Many Respects, It Will Be Sold at About the Same Price.

Near Ardwick Station, ten miles out on the P. W. & B. R. R., the Cerberite Manufacturing Company is finishing up a series of buildings where they will soon commence the manufacture of a new and powerful explosive, known as cerberite that promises to supplant several other explosives of high potential energy.

The company has purchased a tract of land comprising seventy-eight acres lying along the railroad and extending from the Queen Ann's road at Ardwick, (over which the British troops marched in 1812 to fight the battle of Bladensburg) westward some eight hundred yards in the direction of Landover. It is rectangular in shape and is rolling land well watered by the famous Beaver Dam Creek that winds its way through the tract on its journey to the Eastern branch of the Potomac.

Several buildings have already been erected and others are in the course of construction. An office building for use of the company stands on a knoll near the railway while back of it is the paper-shell house where millions of shells will be made to encase the new product. After being made, but before being filled, each one will be treated with a coat of paraffine wax to render them impervious to moisture.

Ground was broken last Friday in the presence of a Citizen reporter for the nitro-glycerine house, which is to be 25x35 feet in dimensions and three story and cellar in height. In this building commercial nitro-glycerine will be manufactured on a large scale as it is one of the most extensive components of the new product. Some of the machinery for this building is now on the ground ready to be installed. Commercial glycerine and sulphuric acid and nitric acids are united in a powerful mixing machine, and then drawn off and filtered through water in the making of nitro-glycerine. From this house the product will be run by gravity to the mixing house, soon to be erected on lower ground, where the finished product will be turned out ready to go to the packing house that was just finished. This new packing house is a building 20x40 feet around the sides of which strong tables have been built for the use of workmen in packing the cerberite in paper cartridges. These cartridges will range in size from 7-8 of an inch to two inches in diameter and from six inches to twelve inches in length. Larger sizes, of course, can be made on demand.

On the back part of the tract of land a magazine will be built into the hillside so as to be nearly covered with earth, for the storage of cerberite before shipment. The foundation for an engine house larger than the one at first erected has been laid near the creek and a dam is to be formed for the storage of water, large quantities of which will be required in the various buildings and in the various processes.

Samples of cerberite were made at the plant of the Dittmar Powder and Chemical Company at Farringdale, New Jersey, where tests were made, and it was found to be eminently satisfactory in every respect.

Government chemists and others have submitted it to every known test and pronounced it a wonderful explosive.

The erection of the plant at Ardwick is under the immediate supervision of Mr. R. J. Martin, who severed his connection with the Dittmar Powder & Chemical Company with which he has been for the past ten years, to take charge of the manufacture of cerberite for this new concern, the Cerberite Manufacturing Company, incorporated, which will have its new product on the market in about six weeks.

The incorporators of the company are all hustling business men, determined to make a "go" of this new product for which several large orders have been already booked. Mr. Frank Hume, the wholesale grocer on the avenue, has an unbroken record for progress and honorable dealing extending away back to the year 1863 when he first began business in Washington.

Mr. James L. Norris is at the head of one of the oldest and most successful patent firms in the United States. Ho-

is vice-president of the National Bank of Washington and is interested in several successful ventures.

Mr. Wilton J. Lambert is a member of the law firm of Lambert & Lambert, who have met with signal success as attorneys for large corporations. He is a pushing, hustling, live young man who likes to see things move with a vengeance. Mr. Louis P. Shoemaker is almost too well known to our readers to need mention. As director of the Washington Loan & Trust Company and of the Columbia National Bank, in connection with his extensive real estate business he is constantly on the go. He is the leading spirit in nearly all matters pertaining to municipal improvement.

Mr. Frank L. Hanvey, the builder, is "known by his work," which is seen in all parts of the city. Some of the largest and handsomest buildings in the city were erected by him. Mr. J. Fred Kelly has always taken an active part in public affairs and is in great demand when there is any large public function on hand. His real estate business keeps him going a good share of the time. Mr. Arthur P. Gorman, Jr., son of ex-Senator Gorman of Maryland, inherited a liberal share of the business acumen with which his father is endowed. He is one of the representative young business men of the city and is taking an active part in upbuilding its industries. Messrs. Chas. E. White, cashier of the National Bank of Washington; W. J. Hendricks, Melvin E. Myers, R. F. Crist, E. F. Brady and R. F. Dunning are also among the stockholders of the company.

The fact that cerberite is absolutely non-explosive on concussion will at once commend itself to farmers, miners and other large users of explosive substances, and to every mechanic in the world who will praise it for its freedom from danger on that account. It is claimed that it is absolutely impossible to explode cerberite except by the use of a specially prepared cap.

At a meeting of the directors held Wednesday afternoon in the office of Lambert & Lambert officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: James L. Norris, president; Louis P. Shoemaker, first vice-president; Frank L. Hanvey, second vice-president; Frank Hume, third vice-president; Chas. E. White, treasurer; R. F. Crist, secretary. Wm. J. Hendricks was chosen manager and Mr. Wilton J. Lambert, attorney for the company. The following committees were selected: Executive Committee, Louis P. Shoemaker, chairman; Wilton J. Lambert, Frank L. Hanvey, W. J. Hendricks and Frank Hume. Finance Committee, J. Fred Kelly, C. Randolph and Louis P. Shoemaker. Auditing Committee, A. L. Wood, J. Fred Kelly and M. E. Myers.

The following article from the New York Financial Review, which we publish in full, will give our readers some additional facts in reference to cerberite and its possibilities:

"It has often been observed that this is essentially an age of new ideas. Our people are nothing if not progressive, and their entire existence may be taken as an exemplification of the doctrine that 'the world moves.' Of course it is not merely sufficient that an idea shall be new; it must also be meritorious if success is to be the result of its promulgation. When, however, newness and goodness are combined in proper proportions, there is nothing that can stand in the way.

"Progress, rapid progress, is the order of the day. Nothing can stop it. Whatever stands in the way is remorselessly run down, as the stagecoach by the locomotive in the first half of the century. In the rush of improvements inventions which were valuable but a few years ago, are now superseded. It is in vain that interests which, it may be, cost enormously in treasure and labor, call out against destruction. The inevitable always happens; the sun puts out the light of the stars. Wise men do not quarrel with this law of progress. The better way they find to be, is to put out more effort and strength in the race. If they do not keep up, they must fall to the rear.

"A remarkable illustration of the progressive tendencies of the age is to be found in the new explosive known as 'cerberite,' which is the invention of a Russian gentleman of distinguished standing, named Count Smolnitski. This explosive is claimed to be the equal of, if not superior to, dynamite, and it has been found that it is perfectly safe to handle; that it will not explode when brought in contact with fire, or ignited, and that it is proof against freezing to a temperature of forty degrees below zero, and yet that when exploded, as it can be, by the use of a proper cap, the strongest grade of 'cerberite' is able to accomplish more potent results than the most powerful dynamite, having, in fact, the strength of a compound containing ninety per cent. of pure glycerine.

"These facts having been established to the satisfaction of a number of gentlemen of high standing in business and financial circles, a contract was secured from the inventor for the exclusive control of the process in the United States, and a charter was obtained from the State of West Vir-

ginia for the Cerberite Manufacturing Company, the capital of which is \$1,000,000, in shares of the par value of \$10 each. The incorporators of this company are: James L. Norris, vice-president of the National Bank of Washington; A. P. Gorman, Jr., Melvin E. Meyers, Wilton J. Lambert, Frank Hume, J. Fred Kelly, Frank L. Hanvey, William J. Hendricks and Louis P. Shoemaker, a prominent real estate broker and director of the Columbia National Bank and Washington Loan and Trust Co.

"Other prominent gentlemen known to be interested as stockholders are Charles E. White, cashier of the National Bank of Washington; R. F. Crist, E. F. Brady and R. F. Dunning. Mr. Wilton J. Lambert, who is named above as one of the incorporators, is a member of the influential law firm of Lambert & Lambert, by whom the legal details relative to the formation of the company were attended to. The charter members, or incorporators, will compose the Board of Directors for the first year. Officers have not as yet been elected.

"All of the stock which it was determined to issue at the start was at once subscribed for, and a tract of land, consisting of some sixty acres, located on the Pennsylvania Railroad, some eight miles from Washington, towards Baltimore, was purchased. This land, which comprises a large part of the territory between the stations of Landover and Ardwick, was at once put in proper condition for factory purposes and six or seven substantial buildings were erected. Everything is now ready for the work of manufacture. On December 1 Mr. Richard Martin, for many years foreman for the Dittmar Powder Company, left that concern and entered upon a contract with the Cerberite Manufacturing Company as its superintendent. Mr. Martin is an acknowledged expert in his line and will have under him a corps of able assistants.

"Extensive and successful experiments have been made with 'cerberite,' and it has been found that even the largest claims that have been made on its behalf have been more than justified by the actual performance. By all competent critics who have investigated the facts, 'cerberite' is regarded as one of the great discoveries of the age. There is an immense field for it and the company has several large orders already booked, and as it is satisfied that its product is not only safe but also impervious to anything like ordinary winter temperatures, it expects a steady demand from the market throughout the year. The real merit of 'cerberite' rests in the discovery of a method of insensitizing nitro-glycerine without depriving it of any of its high explosive properties.

"Cerberite" will be manufactured in grades similar to dynamite, which will range in price about the same as dynamite.

"Under its charter the company obtains the right to manufacture dynamite, gunpowder and all other kinds of explosives, which will probably be done.

"We do not know whether any of the stock of this company will be offered to the public or not, but it can readily be seen that in such an article as has been described, large money making capabilities are embodied.

"This enterprise is wholly without speculative features, in the sense of depending upon the unknown. Its success does not involve the forced growth of an industry, nor rest upon the diversion of trade from existing and satisfactory channels. It offers a legitimate investment, with every promise of large permanent profits; and the more closely and intelligently it is investigated, the more safe and satisfactory it appears to be."

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Bank Robbers Secure \$15,000.

Hope, Ind. (Special).—Kennedy's Bank was burglarized by three men who destroyed the vault with a heavy charge of nitro-glycerine and secured, it is said, \$15,000. So quietly was the job done that the robbers secured their plunder and were entering a carriage, which they had in waiting in a darkened part of the main street, on which the bank was located, when their actions were observed by the operator in charge of the telephone exchange. The alarm was quickly spread and a posse of citizens began at once to scour the surrounding country. No trace of the robbers has yet been found.

A PROSPEROUS BUSINESS.

Flower Pots Being Turned Out by the Million.

Facts About an Establishment of Which Little is Known—From a Small Beginning a Huge Industry Has Developed.

The people of the District of Columbia are rapidly waking up to an appreciation of the fact that the greatest present need is a number of small manufacturing plants that will furnish employment for the surplus labor of the city and thus keep at home the money that would otherwise be spent in Baltimore or some other near-by city that is not only looking for but offering inducements to establishments that employ labor. A factory that gives employment to a half dozen or more men is a help to the grocer, the butcher, the baker, the clothier, the tailor and a dozen other merchants who can do business with the man who has employment whereas if he is out of employment he is necessarily out of money and therefore of not much use to the man with goods to sell. For the past fifteen years there has been a non-sensical cry in Washington against all kinds of factories because of what some misguided folks are pleased to term the "smoke nuisance," but as their sons grow into manhood and idleness with no show of employment they see the error of their way and gladly welcome anything that has a show of furnishing employment to the ones whose idleness has become a severe tax upon their earnings. In an out of the way place at 28th and M streets, Northeast, there has existed for a number of years a small manufacturing plant called a pottery that furnishes steady employment the year around to a number of men and boys, thus fulfilling our idea of what there should be in every section of the District.

The pottery of which we speak was established in 1883 at the foot of 4th street, Southeast, by Mr. Wm. H. Ernest. By turning out an honest product he soon outgrew the location and in 1892 he purchased nearly a square of ground at 28th and M streets and erected thereon suitable buildings for the prosecution of the business, including a large modern kiln that is not surpassed in excellence of construction in the entire United States. From that date to the present time he has turned out and sold millions and millions of pots of every size from the very smallest to the largest. A faint idea of the extent of the plant can be gained from the simple fact that for the past three years he has never had less than a million pots in stock. All sizes are carried for florists' use from the tiny two-inch size to the big fellows twenty inches in diameter. All orders are filled promptly as there is no necessity to wait until a certain size is burnt. All orders received in the morning are filled generally before two o'clock. Experienced packers put the goods up in such excellent shape that their delivery in good condition anywhere in the world is practically guaranteed. On numerous occasions Mr. Ernest has been warmly congratulated on the way he packs goods for shipment.

In addition to his extensive pottery business Mr. Ernest handles the celebrated New Brighton stoneware that has a national reputation for uniformity, reliability and general excellence of construction. The list of stoneware comprises jugs of all sizes, jars, milk pans, pitchers, bean pots, churns, filters, stew pans, etc., and since an endless quantity is carried in stock at all times orders for any size and in any quantity can be filled on a moment's notice. The storage capacity of the present plant has for some time past been so overtaxed that Mr. Ernest expects to begin the erection of a large additional building for storage purposes in the spring. The present buildings cover about a quarter of an acre but if the business increases as rapidly in the next few years as it has in the past it will not be long before the plant will occupy the entire square. If a hundred enterprises of similar size dotted the hillsides of the District of Columbia it would be better for all our people.

Loot to be Sent Back.

Paris (By Cable).—In addition to the order directing that the cases filled with Chinese loot sent to President Loubet and others by Gen. Frey, commander of the French marine forces in China, shall be embargoed at Marseilles, when they are unshipped, the government has decided that all objects, unless materials of war, which have been seized or shall be seized by the French expeditionary force in China, shall be restored, whether belonging to the Chinese government or to private individuals.

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Another Billmore?
Raleigh, N. C. (Special).—It is reported that Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, who is visiting at George Vanderbilt's country home, Billmore, in western Carolina, will purchase an estate in the mountains adjacent for the purpose of building a magnificent home.

Telephoning Without Wires.
Minneapolis, Minn. (Special).—Telephoning without wires was accomplished here by transmitting the voice a distance of 1000 feet across the Mississippi. The experiments were conducted by James Kolsey, who made the recent successful test.