

JVE NEWS OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD

ISS ACTIVITY IN ANTHRACITE COAL TRADE.

Explanation for This as Given by the Engineering and Mining Journal—Present State of the Iron and Steel Trade—Make Up of the D. L. and W. Board for Today—Digging Up Revolutionary Relics. General Manager C. E. Flynn Has Resigned.

Continued mild weather has taken such activity out of the anthracite trade. Threatened troubles at the collieries may have caused some timorous spirits to put in a few orders, but such buying has not begun to affect the market.

Trade at Duluth and at Chicago has been very light, with no hope of improvement, except through a cold wave. At Eastern points the steam sizes continue in excellent demand and keep things moving. Prices at both Western and Eastern points are very firmly held and there is no sign of weakening yet.

The general strike threatened at the collieries seems to be less imminent than last week. The movement, though nominally for the correction of numerous grievances, seems to have resolved into a simple struggle for recognition by officers of the United Mine Workers.

Following is the make-up of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Board for today:

- 1 a. m. north—G. Froumholzer
2 p. m. south—H. Bush
3 p. m. south—M. Madigan
PULLER:
10 a. m.—Peckick
PUSHERS:
11 a. m. south—Houser
11:30 a. m. south—M. Moran
7 p. m. south—M. Murphy
10 p. m. south—C. Cawley
PASSENGER ENGINE:
6:30 p. m.—McGovern
WILD CATS, NORTH:
11 a. m., 2 engines—G. Hill
1 p. m., 2 engines—E. Custer
5 p. m., 2 engines—C. Kingsley
8 p. m., 2 engines—J. E. Masters
10 p. m., 2 engines—O. Randolph.

Revolutionary Relics. Workmen engaged in excavating the foundation for the Lackawanna railroad's new warehouse in Wallabout Basin, which is to be the largest in Brooklyn, recently excavated the bones of a number of men who were buried there during the War of the Revolution.

Iron and Steel Market. The Engineering and Mining Journal of Saturday said of the present condition of the iron and steel market:

"The market at present is essentially a waiting one, both buyers and sellers resting; the former looking for some concessions in price, the latter apparently confident that the other party will finally be obliged to come to terms at present quotations, or somewhere near them. Buyers' wants are not very pressing just now, since most large concerns are supplied for at least the first quarter of the year. Sellers rely on the great volume of business already under contract, and intimate that they do not see any necessity of giving way. The situation is one that may continue for several weeks; and again, it may be broken up at any minute by a few uneasy buyers, who will be followed by all the rest."

This and That. The Lackawanna Railroad company contemplates placing an iron plate between the rail and tie along its road this spring. The plate will prevent the rail from sinking by wearing into the tie.

H. N. Butterfield has been appointed

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traveling freight and passenger agent of the Lackawanna company in the territory west of Chicago, with headquarters at 225 Marquette building, Chicago, Ill.

E. L. Keene, who has been foreman for the last year at the Pennsylvania Coal company's No. 1 breaker, Dunmore, has been transferred to No. 3 colliery, Pittston, where he will hold a like position.

Hereafter the Scranton-Hoboken sleeper upon arriving in Hoboken each morning will be placed on a spur at the end of the station, so that occupants can have the privilege of remaining in the car until 8 a. m.

C. E. Flynn, general manager of the Carbonate Traction company, has tendered his resignation to take effect on Feb. 1. Mr. Flynn has been an electric light and street railway plant at Easton, one of the most important positions of his kind in Pennsylvania.

The Pressed Steel Car company, of Pittsburg, has received an order for 100 steel cars for the Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean railroad of France. It is understood that the order was given at the instance of the French government and that further large orders may be expected if the cars are found suitable for the company's purposes.

Martin Cawley, the well-known contractor, has been awarded a contract for the construction of a new railroad bridge at No. 4 on the new Delaware and Hudson railroad between Carbondale and Honesdale. The work will be of masonry throughout and at least two months will be required to build it. Mr. Cawley started on the job Wednesday. The bridge will be located about two miles this side of Farview—Archbald City.

USES FOR CORN STALKS.

Science Adds Millions to the Wealth of Farmers. From the New York Sun.

Five years ago the farmer considered the value of his corn crop practically concluded with the husking of the corn. What was left was worth perhaps sixty cents an acre as fodder; rather under that figure than over it as a rule. Science, ever busily seeking for by-products, sought to make sugar and alcohol from the stalk of the corn, but unavailingly. Now, however, experiments along different lines have established the value of the by-products of the corn crop as probably second to no agricultural product of a similar nature grown in this country and has almost if not quite doubled the receipts of the corn growers, as the stalk is made practically as valuable as the grain. There is now a home market where the farmer can get from \$3 to \$5 a ton for cornstalks that from \$12 to \$15 an acre for what has hitherto brought him in sixty cents at best. The American Agriculturalist which treats of this new industry in a leading article, declares it to be one of the most important departures in industrial history. It gives the following list of what is made from corn-stalks:

- 1. Cellulose for packing cofferdams on battleships, this preventing them from sinking when pierced by balls or shells.
2. Proxylon varnish, a liquid form of cellulose, the uses of which are practically unlimited.
3. Cellulose used for nitrating purposes for making smokeless powder and other high explosives, for both small and great arms, as well as purposes for which dynamite or all other explosives are required in various forms and degrees of strength.
4. Cellulose for packing, it being the most perfect non-conductor known against heat or electricity, jars or blows.
5. Paper pulp and various forms of paper made therefrom, both alone and mixed with other grades of paper stock.
6. Stock food made from the corn cobs, outer shells or shives of corn stalks, and also from the nodes or joints. The leaves and tassels also furnish a shred or baled fodder.
7. Mixed feeds for stock, containing fine ground shells or shives as a base. In addition thereto various nitrogenous meals and concentrated food substances, or blood, molasses, distillery and glucose refuse, sugar beet pulp, apple pomace and other by-products.
8. Poultry foods of two types, namely—type 1, containing a dominant nitrogenous factor for laying hens, and No. 2, containing a dominant carbohydrate factor for fattening purposes.
9. The stalk of the maize plant, or American corn, is made up as follows, on a basis of 100 pounds of air-dried stalks stripped or leaves and tassels; 25 pounds of nodes or joints, 20 pounds of pith, coarse and fine, and 55 pounds of shells or shives. The nodes contain, on an average, 33 per cent. of pure cellulose, the pith 38 per cent. and the shives 40 per cent. This corn-pith cellulose is of so great value in naval warfare that Lewis Nixon, the naval constructor, has declared it to be of as much importance as the development of Harveyized armor and smokeless powder. Cofferdams along the side of a vessel, when tightly packed with maize pith to a thickness of three feet will not leak when perforated with shells or shot. When the cofferdam containing this material is perforated by a shot, the elasticity of the tightly packed pith completely closes the hole made by the projectile, so that the water cannot pass through. Naturally some water must enter at the point of perforation, but owing to the great capacity of the pith to absorb water, it being able to hold more than twenty times its own weight when not pressed, the water that first enters is at once absorbed. This causes the pith which is moistened to swell and thus to close more completely the aperture made by the projectile.
10. The Columbia, New York and Olympia are thus protected and many of the new warships now under construction in this country, Russia, England and France are using the new material instead of coconut fibre which was formerly employed. In the manufacture of high explosives the corn pith forms an excellent basis because of its admirable keeping qualities, and high class smokeless powders and dynamites are now made from this product, which is said to be superior to cotton in that it is more easily nitrated and cleaned.
11. In the arts of peace the greatest value of the corn pith at present is found in the liquid form of the cellulose, known as proxylon varnish, which is utilized in hundreds of ways. Nearly every thing that is made from wood pulp can, it is said, be made from this material. Experiments are now under way looking to the manufacture of paper from cornstalk pulp. For one thing, it is predicted that a substance will be produced from the woody covering of the stalks which will produce a good quality of paper at such a price that it will be available for newspaper use. In the end it may be that the cornstalk will save the forests of this country which are being cut down for the consumption of the wood pulp mills. The uses of the cornstalk for packing and food are varied but too technical

for discussion in a newspaper. As to the possibilities opened up by this new market, the Agriculturalist says: "The possibilities thus opened up are prodigious. To add only a few dollars per acre to each one of the 80,000,000 acres devoted to maize in the United States each year runs into a sum so fabulous as hardly to bear publication. But if it is assumed that only the fields of the corn belt will be benefited, those eight States, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, alone average close to 50,000,000 acres under corn. If only \$5 per acre is added to the value of the crop in this belt, it means the tidy sum of \$250,000,000 added to the farmers' income."

A large plant is now turning out these products at Owensboro, Ky., under the direction of Mark W. Marsden, who took out the first patent on cornstalk product in 1875, and other plants are now nearing completion at Camden, Ind., Peoria, Ill., and Newport News, Va.

THE ORIGIN OF DIAMONDS.

A Recent Discovery That May Throw Some Light on the Question. From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The origin of diamonds, which for so long has been a debated question, appears to be explained by a recent discovery near Kimberley.

In both the Indian and the Brazilian diamond fields the gem occurs like a pebble in certain gravelly strata, but has not been traced back to any rock that gives any indication of its genesis. After the discovery of diamonds in the river sand in some South African rivers, a peculiar material of a brownish-buff color, which turned to a dark bluish tint, was found. It became darker as the miners dug down. The diamonds lay in this material, together with several other materials, such as garnets, iron ores, augite, olivine, etc. Excavations, begun systematically, were eventually carried on in such a scale that near Kimberley they had reached a depth of more than 1,400 feet. Here the rock is about as hard as ordinary limestone. The blue ground is found only in limited areas. The rocks around are of dark shales, banded with hard sandstone, in which sheets or dykes of basalt or some material which was once in a molten condition cut up by similar dykes. The blue ground fills a sort of sheet of colossal size in these other rocks, and is itself cut up by similar dykes. The opinion of geologists differs as to whether the gems are produced where they now lie or have been formed of some volcanic explosion. It is thought that the mystery has been at last cleared up.

About two years ago the manager of a diamond mine owned near Kimberley picked up a specimen in which smaller diamonds were apparently imbedded in the garnet. This led to an investigation of various bowlders, one of which was broken open and was found to contain diamonds. The rock is of the description known to mineralogists as "eclogite." It is apparently composed almost exclusively of red garnet rock and a peculiar light green augite. The rock is coarsely crystalline, and in all probability was once like garnet in a molten condition, the diamond being one of its original constituents. Experts now tend to the belief that the "blue ground" in which diamonds were found is not their true

birthplace. The bowlders are often watermarked, and may have rested for ages in an ancient gravel at the very bottom of sedimentary rocks of the district. In course of time volcanic explosions shattered the rocky floor in which the bowlders were only imbedded, and dispersed it, together with the overlying materials. It is believed that this is the true explanation of the formation of the diamond bearing "blue ground."

Kansas is troubled by a dispute as to whose memories it will perpetuate in its allotted space in the statutory hall of the capitol building at Washington. Quite a faction favors John Brown and Preston B. Plumb for the honor.

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Pointed Paragraphs.

Rocker Talk. Reed Rockers, were \$3.75, \$5.00, \$6.50, \$12.00. Now \$2.75, \$3.75, \$5.00, \$9.50. Fancy Rockers, were \$3.75, \$5.50, \$7.00, \$10.00. Now \$2.75, \$4.00, \$5.50, \$7.50. Bed Talk. Metal Beds, were \$7.50, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00. With best springs, now \$5.75, \$7.50, \$9.50, \$12. Bureau Talk. Bureaus, white enamel or oak, Oval Bevel Plate Glass, were \$16.50; now \$12.50.

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