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It is astonishing to see the readiness with which some people are always prepared to attack the industries of their country, and in their blindness work a permanent and deadly injury to their own interests. In doing this they believe that they are striking at capital, when in fact the shot they are using is nothing more than a boomerang and they themselves the injured. A fair sample of this is now going on in the Colorado State Legislature, which is attempting to pass a measure taxing mines in that State as follows:

"That all mines and mining claims bearing gold, silver, lead copper or other precious or valuable metals, and the gross proceeds of possession rights in unpatented claims, shall be listed and valued each year, and shall be assessed at their full cash value. All surface improvement and all machinery located upon any mining claim or claims shall be separately valued for taxation. Provided that a non-producing mining claim or claims shall be assessed and taxed like other property, according to the value thereof; and in ascertaining such value the assessor shall, in addition to other requirements of this act, take into consideration the location thereof, the proximity to other mines or mining claims, and any other matter which may tend to assist him in arriving at a fair and equitable valuation of such properties."

No State can afford to tax its non-producing mines. Their values are unknown. Thousands of dollars have to be expended upon before their real values can be arrived at, and then oftentimes the prove to be valueless. A tax on the non-producer will result in driving the promoter out of the country every time. The very attempt to pass this law in Colorado has resulted in bringing development work to a stand still, and if it should be enacted, the promoters will look for other fields.

NEW USE FOR COTTONSEED.

Once a Waste Product It is Now Used in the Manufacture of Paper.

A few years ago cottonseed was a waste product, and the only use made of it was to compost it and, when rotted, use it as a fertilizer. Its industrial utilization began with the extraction of the oil it contains, and it has now become the raw material of so many important industries that last spring, when it became necessary to replant considerable areas of cotton land which had been flooded by the exceptional spring freshets, it was found that the cleaning up had been so complete by the buyer of the cotton-oil mills that enough seed for between-seasons planting was collected with difficulty.

Hitherto the hull of the cottonseed has had no value, but this is now to be utilized in admixture with flax fiber in paper manufacture. A company organized for this purpose has bought extensive paper-mill properties at Niagara, on the lands of the Niagara Falls Power company. The collection and preparation of the cottonseed hulls for paper stock will be undertaken at mills conveniently located in the south. The material will be used in the manufacture of high-grade papers, and is said to give great strength with beautiful finish. Its advantage over other possible paper-making materials is that it is the by-product of other industries, and is consequently much cheaper than one which has to be grown, gathered and prepared especially.

Probably the most useful steps in mechanical progress, says the New York Times, are those along the line of utilizing the waste products of existing industries.

ALL HE NEEDED WAS TIME.

Railroad Official Got Even in a Game of Poker by Prolonging a Journey.

Some years ago a man now way up in railroad circles held a position with the Central branch road, just big enough to enable him to take a trip over the line now and then in a special car, says the Kansas City Journal. He was somewhat of a poker player and occasionally would invite some of his friends who knew the game to take a trip over the line with him. On one of the return trips his friends were getting into him in good shape. He was \$400 or \$500 loser.

The train was within 17 miles of Atchison and he knew there was no show for him to pull out even in the time it would take to run in. So he excused himself and went to the baggage car and pulled the air. The train came to a stop. He talked with the engineer for a few minutes. Then he went back and resumed playing. The train didn't move. The friends asked him what was the matter. He said that the engine had slipped an eccentric and he had telegraphed to Atchison for another engine. In a couple of hours, through some plucky plays, the railroad man got even with the game. Then he stepped to the platform of the car and yelled to the engineer: "Run like h—l into town. I'm even with the game."

Americans in Berlin.

William E. Curtis writes from Berlin that there is a wrong impression in regard to the size of the American colony in the German capital, and he says the colony is not nearly so large as everyone here thinks. It has been listed as having 2,000, but Curtis says the Americans in Berlin took a census of their countrymen themselves, and found just 500. There is many an American voting precinct that has had many Germans.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Wm. DAHL, General Merchant

We are of the opinion that 1902 is going to be a very prosperous year for Pierce, and are preparing ourselves accordingly. We have just received our first shipment of shoes, rubbers and artics to fit men women children. Water Proof Miner's Shoes that can not be beat.

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