## OVERHEAD STEAM CRANES FOR DOCK PURPOSES.

The Middlesbrough docks, Yorkshire, England, whic have recently been made by the North Eastern Railway Com pany to accommodate their greatly increased shipping traffic, possess many points of interest and novelty, prominent among which is the system of steam cranes employed, a system which we illustrate herewith.
It was found that no fixed crane could be kept constantly employed at Middlesbrough on account of the great variation in the length of the ships, steamers, etc., while, furthermore, as the total area of quay room would be, in the first instance, somewhat limited, the space occupied by a fixed crane would be attended with serious inconvenience. The same objection existed to the adoption of the ordinary construction of portable cranes, involving a separate line of rails for them to travel on. There was also the further condition that the cranes must be capable of loading and discharging vessels, the sides of which were 15 feet to 20 feet above the level of the quay, as rapidly as lighters, which would frequently be 20 feet below the quay level, and that in both cases the driver should have a clear view of his work. Under these circumstances it was decided to state the leading conditions to various manufacturers of cranes, and invit them to give tenders and prices forwhatappeared to them best adapted to fulfil these conditions. The design adop ted, says Enginecring, to which we are indebted we are indebted
for the engrav. for the engrav-
ing, was that ing, was that entin by Messr: Appleby Broth ers, of London; this design, as will be seen from the engraving, consisting of a traveling staging or gantry, on which is mount. ed a steam crane ed a steam crane of the same con struction as that sent by the firm to the Vienna Ex hibition (see page 95 of our vol ume XXIX.), and which is in successful use at so many of the docks and har bors in England and on the Conand on the Con inent
The traveling staging of each crane has a span of 23 feet, center to center of rails, one of the latter being laid close to the edge of the quay, and th quay, and the other in the 6 feet betweenrail. The clear hight 17 feet 6 inches which allows the uninterrupted cir. culation of loco motives and all kinds of rolling stock on each of the two lines of rails which are spanned by the panned by the gantry. The tra 12 feet, center to 12 feet, center to
center. The fra center. The fra ming is composed of a pair of timber uprights, braced and strengthened by cast iron brackets, and two OVERHEAD STEAM CRANES AT MIDDLESBROUGH DOCKS, ENGLAND,

It might at first sight appear that the road to carry these cranes must be of unusual strength, but on further consideration it will be seen that this is not absolutely necessary, because the base obtained is so large that there is comparatively little strain on the road, in fact, probably no more than on a line of rails of the ordinary gage, carrying a portable crane of the usual type, working the same loads at the same radius. Several of these cranes have been in successful operation for some time past, and a number more are in course of construction for the Middlesbrough Docks.
The system, evidently, has great advantages urder the conditions above named, as well as for working in crowded railway stations, or in stone quarries, timber yards, etc., and it appears singular thatan arrangement at once so simple and efficient should, until now, not have been brought into more extensive use, especially for dock and railway traffic.

## Sumae.

Sumac is largely used in tanning the finer kinds of leather, especially in the manufacture of the hard grained moroccos and similar goods. It is also employed as the base of many colors in calico and de canc printin? Probably the consump. tion of this article throughout the country for all purposes aggregates more than 20,000 tuns, of which about two thirds are imported from Sicily, not because just as good sumac caunot be grown in this country, but because, until a few years ago, our people did not know its value, or in its value, or in
what way to prewhat way to prepare it for the market. The sumacs
of Virginia. Maryof Virginia. Mary-
land, and Tennesland, and Tennes-
see in particular see in particular
are said to be the are said to be the
best in the world, and even their worst varieties have been ofticially pronounced by experts to be better than any imported frcm Sicily. Almostevery farmer has a clump of these bushes. They are called by some "'shoemake," by others "red shoemake." Pro. shoemake. Pro. mably many fartried to kill thern by cutting down. If they have, they know how difficult a task it is. It grows like asparagus, all the better for being cut; and when once started upon a lot and cut close once a year, it is as easy to cut as corn fodder.
The only trouble is in curing it properly. This must be done with all the care that is bestowed upon tobacco or hops. Exposure, after cutting, to a heavy dew injures it, and a rain storm detracts materially from its value. It is cut when in full leaf; and when proper ly dried is ground, leaves and sticks together. An acre wrought iron plate girders, which are connected to the tim- ble on its gantry, so that it will travel from end to end, all|in full beuring will produce notless than three tuns; and when
ber uprights by four wrought iron plate brackets, strength ened with angle irons. A strong carriage, with the necessary roller path and brackets for the gear required to transmit the traveling motion, which will shortiy be referred to, is firmly bolted at the extreme end of the girders nearest to thedock, while the girders are planked over so as to form a store for coal and water. The crane, and the whole of the substructure, is designed for a working load of 3 tunsa the maximum radius of 21 feet from center of crane post to the plumb line of the lifting chain, while the crane itself is as has already been stated, of pracisely the same conatruc tion as those which have given satisfactory working results elsewhere, with apparatus for altering the radius by steam
the other motions being retained, and the traveling motion in that case being transmitted through a square shaft with tum bler bearings. This construction is especially valuable for use on a jetty where vessels lay on each side; to suit these conditions, the gantry is made to span the whole width of the jetty, and to travel over the ordinary lines of rails and road way. Another modification of the system consists in having the crane fixed on an ordinary overhead traveler gantry, orit may be made to travelacross the gantry; in such a case the fixed staging may be constructed of square timber, or of colunns and girders; this class of traveling crane has been rather extensively used in the construction of public work and large buildings.
fit for market, it is worth from eighty to one hundred dollars a tun. The "manufacturers," as the curers are called pay one cent a pound for it in a green state
A sumac mill costs about $\$ 3,000$. The Commissioner of Agriculture gave an outline of a mill in his report for 1869 . If thirty farmers would unite in an effort to establish sumac mill, each planting out a few acres, says the Ohio Farmer, we have no doubt the enterprise would prove far more remunerative than either corn or wheat, and be the means of inaugurating a new enterprise in their State. There is no danger of an overstock. The demand is daily increasing. for hemiock is growing scarce, and every day new tanneries and dye houses are gaing into operation.

The Commissioner of Agriculture advises to plant in rows n order to cultivate between, either by seed or cutting of the roots. We should advise cuttings by all means, as sumac is as tenacious of life as the blackberry or horse radish. It will never need but one planting, and the crop can be gath. ered any time from July to the time of frost. If it is cut later in the season, and annually, the leaves and the stocks can be ground together. If the cutting is delayed until the stock has formed into solid wood, the leaves must be stripped from the stock, and the stock is thus wasted. It is doubtful if anything is gained in the weight of leaves after the mid dle of July, at which time almost every tree has completed what is called " first growth" for the season. An auction sale of 1,406 bags of Sicily sumac, damaged on the voyage f importation, receutly took place in Philadelphia, and will erve to indicate the value of the article: 102 bags sold a $\$ 53$ per tun ; 37 bags sold at $\$ 45 ; 178$ bags at $\$ 72 ; 200$ bags at $\$ .59 ; 221$ at $\$ 66 ; 531$ at $\$ 49$, and 137 bags at $\$ 30$ per tun

Artificlal Alizarine. - Messrs. Lacius and Beüning ox ydize anthracene by a mixture of nitric acid and bichromate of potash; the anthraquinone thus formed is boiled with nitric acid, whereby nitrothraquinone is formed; this is then treated with an alkali, and the alizarine formed precipitated by an acid. Purpurin is contained in the product thus formed, for which reason the dye thus produced is said to be superior to that made in other colorf actories.-Reimann's Fürberzeitung.
E. L. C. says that the experimentin the wear of gold coin eported in our issucof January 17, was not conducted in a manner to produce a correct result, as the gold coins used were heavier than the silver ones, which of course would cause greater wear on the gold. The correct way to test hem would be to take a gold coin and a silver one of the ame weight, regardless of size; then weigh out 20 pound of each, and proceed in the manner desc.ibed.

Kingaroo and Aiditatur Shins. -The hidea of kangaoos are imported in considerable quantities from Australia o San Francisco, where they are tanned. They give a leathe quite thin, much more supple than calf skin, and yet less pernueable to water. Alligator skin from the South has been used for some time in this city for the manufacture of heary boots for winter wear

The use of Epsom salts is found to give brighter tints to cer tain aniline colors, especially primula and methyl violet. Sul phurous acid is also beneficial for these colors, the tints being brighter and less readily rubbed off.
SAFFRANIN.-If mixed with strong sulphuric acid, this dye stuff developes a fine blue tint, becoming emerald green by addition of a little water. By suitable additions of water and acid, nearly all the prismatic colors can he produced.
In some recent experiments on the droera, it was found hat the leaves could reach round and catch a fly anywher within half an inch of the plant. The flies have to be tied as it takes the leaves about an hour to get round.

## DECISIONS OF THE COURTS

United States Circuit Court---Southern District of



 Nelthercan he recover damages for any inflngements committed afte
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