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THE GAS ENGINE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

It is a noticeable fact that although the gas engine industry has been advancing with rapid strides in England and on the Continent, it has made comparatively slow progress in this country. This is said with the knowledge that gas engines as well designed and as efficient as any in the world are built in the United States, and the statement is intended to apply chiefly to the development of the trade.

How comes it that a people which is so quick to appreciate a useful device should have given comparatively little attention to the gas engine, and have left it to other nations to demonstrate its efficiency and introduce it on a large scale into their various industries? The causes are various. They are chiefly to be found in the cheapness of steam coal and the high cost of gas in the United States.

It is reasonable to suppose that when this industry, which in respect of its proportions is yet in its infancy, has attained the importance which it has in Europe, it will tend to reduce the price of gas, especially such gas as is used for cooking and power purposes; and the gas companies, themselves, will undoubtedly benefit by the growth of the industry, the increased consumption more than compensating for the reduction in price.

GOLD MINING MACHINERY EXHIBITION AT COOLGARDIE, WEST AUSTRALIA.

We have been requested by Mr. David T. Day, of the United States Geological Survey, to call attention to a cablegram which he has received from the secretary of the forthcoming mining machinery exhibition at Coolgardie, West Australia. The dispatch requests that American manufacturers may be notified that the exhibition opens on October the first of this year.

The compactness, handiness and light weight of American mining machinery have never failed to make a most favorable impression in comparison with the more cumbersome European machinery. These qualities are of the first importance in new countries like Western Australia, where roads are poor and transportation is costly, and accessibility, simplicity and ease of repairs are simply invaluable qualities in the too often unskilled hands of the miner.

THE SECOND CITY IN THE WORLD.

Now that the city of Brooklyn and other suburban districts have been incorporated with the city of New York, the latter in point of population easily takes rank as the second greatest city of the world. London, of course, comes first with its great total of 5,600,000 souls. New York, or "Greater New York" as it has been popularly called, contains fully three and a quarter million souls, or three-quarters of a million more than Paris, which has heretofore ranked as the second city to London in point of size.

ber that they represent practically the growth of a single century, for the census of 1800 shows that New York had then only 60,489 inhabitants, and it is certain that Brooklyn with the other districts recently included would at that time have made but a slight increase in the total. As to the future there is no reason to suppose that New York will ever lose its present position. There is no other city, unless it be Paris, that can be considered as a rival for second place among the great cities of the world, and the comparative youth and vigor of the country that is tributary to New York render it certain that her rate of growth will be greater than that of the French capital.

As to the possibility of the capital of the western hemisphere becoming the capital of the world it is difficult to conjecture. The London of to-day will soon have passed the six million mark, and there is at present no discernible sign of its growth being arrested. On the other hand, it is adding to its numbers at the rate of 80,000 a year, and the rate of increase is steadily growing as the years go by.

EXPERIMENTAL BICYCLE TRIP IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

Secretary Alger has given permission for the carrying out of a second military bicycle trip, similar to the famous ride through the Rocky Mountains last year, and the expedition will again be under the charge of Lieutenant Moss. The route has been laid out between Fort Missoula, Montana, and St. Louis, Mo., and the total distance of 3,000 miles will include every variety of country and roads. The party is to consist of a surgeon and a score of privates from the Twenty-fifth Infantry at Fort Missoula. A special military bicycle is being built, the design of which is based on the experience gained during last year's trip.

UTILIZING THE CATARACTS OF THE NILE.

The cataracts of the Nile, which have always been regarded as the bane of navigation on this noble river, may yet prove to be of inestimable benefit to Egypt if the latest advices from that country are correct. It is stated that a proposal is on foot to utilize the cataracts for electric light and power purposes. It is claimed that cotton mills, sugar factories, and the various forms of western industry which have been introduced in this ancient country during the British occupation would be greatly stimulated by the carrying out of such a scheme.

If the proposed work is carried out, it will work another and important step in the recovery of this historical land from the degradation into which it had fallen under Turkish misrule. The civil engineer has done and is doing a splendid work in the ancient land of the Pharaohs, and whatever political changes may be in store, it is to be hoped that nothing will occur to prevent its present conquest by the transit and level.

MUNICH breweries possess 1,263 freight cars in which their beer is taken to all parts of Europe, including Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Russia. Erlangen breweries have 47 cars, Kulmbach 180 and Nuremberg 96.