

mixed rock and asbestos is thence passed through beating machines that stamp it and deliver it to slightly inclined flat screens with $1/16$ to $1/4$ -in. mesh. Here all the remaining granite is separated from the asbestos and the latter is removed by pneumatic dust collectors and thrown into the combers, delivering A grade. The residue is elevated to the second story and passes again through a double set of small rotary crushers and beaters to give the A grade of fiber. The residue from the A grade is a third set elevated and passes through a last set of crushers and beaters, giving the B grade. The final remnant is a small percentage of the original amount and is carried to an emery grinder making 600 r.p.m., which separates the shortest fibers, known as the C grade.

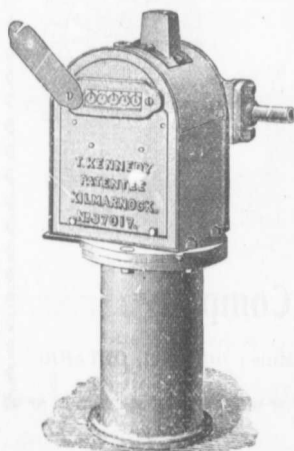
The combers are special machines, each consisting of a pair of horizontal revolving cylinders with rows of radial teeth meshing between rows of similar teeth in the concave surface which encloses the cylinders. The cylinders are driven in opposite directions so as to revolve toward each other, and the asbestos being deposited in a hopper on top of them, is drawn between them and its fibers are gradually worked into position parallel with the rows of teeth and carried around the cylinders to be discharged from their under side. The beaters are wooden boxes 4 feet square and 8 feet long, each of which contains four horizontal shafts 8 feet long. Each shaft is provided with curved arms, which clear each other when the shafts revolve in opposite directions and throw the mineral and stones from side to side, back and forth, gradually separating them and discharging the stones through the bottom of the box. The by-product from the machines is a very fine sand, which is received on a belt conveyor and delivered to the waste pile. This sand contains most of the properties of asbestos and would probably prove valuable if some experiments and investigations were made to develop practical uses for it.

The mill has a capacity of 25 tons of mineral per hour, and the plant is operated by a total force of one hundred men, two-thirds of whom are employed in the quarries. Both quarries and mills are owned and operated by the American Asbestos Co.—E. G. du Mazuel, in the Engineering Record.

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