

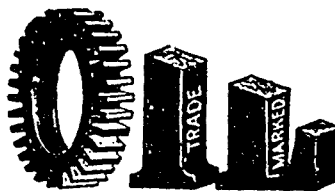
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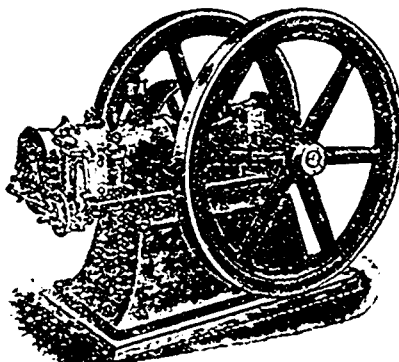
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material, agricultural implements, galvanized iron roofing, hardware and cutlery, furniture and upholstery, building material, paints, varnishes, window glass, cement, textiles, boots and shoes, and beer, spirits, etc. At all leading commercial centres there is a great deal of new building, but at Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria there is exceptional activity, new and comparatively costly structures going up in every direction. The recent destructive fire in the heart of Cape Town will also, no doubt, result in additional new buildings not previously contemplated. Aside from the usual run of mining machinery orders, a large share of which are coming to this country, there is an exceptional activity in the demand for pumping machinery, piping, etc., for municipal waterworks, sewerage plants, etc. At Bloemfontein some \$650,000 are to be expended for new waterworks, the plant including a pump capable of delivering 600,000 gallons per day. At Johannesburg an extensive sewerage scheme is in the hands of the engineers and large orders are impending for piping, etc. Other municipalities are also interested in projects of the same kind, and the value of the orders in this line is likely to be considerable for several years to come. In general merchandise the demand for floor coverings is especially noteworthy, including carpets, rugs, linoleums, etc., while there is also a brisk enquiry for curtains, bed linens and similar supplies. Boots and shoes are in strong demand and American firms are reported to be making unusual efforts to secure a larger share of this trade.

**A NEW STEEL MOULDING PROCESS.**—United States patents were recently issued to Frederick Baldt, Sr., general manager of the Pennsylvania Steel Castings Works, Chester, Pa., that will materially simplify the moulding of steel. The method consists in first making a master mould from any pattern and then casting from this as many fusible patterns as may be required. This fusible pattern is then put into an iron box of suitable size, after which, by means of compressed air, the box is filled with moulding sand. The box is then run into the drying oven, where the fusible pattern is melted out. The casting is then made from the dried mould.

An important feature of this process is that it does away with skilled labor, the sand being conducted and driven by compressed air into all parts of the box and fusible pattern by either boys or laboring men. Since the castings are absolutely seamless and without fins no chipping is required afterward. The process is also particularly applicable to the casting of chains and similar interlocked articles. By this process it is also practicable to produce articles in exact duplicate and in any number.

**BUSINESS IN THE TRANSVAAL.**—Speaking of the conditions of business in South Africa, the Johannesburg correspondent of the London Times says that the settlement of the country is being taken in hand with all possible despatch, but it cannot be expected that progress will be recorded by specific landmarks every day