

districts where goods are required, or from where goods may be obtained. It is especially urged that reliable information should be given as to the addresses of respectable foreign solicitors. The Foreign Office, too, ought to give every facility for intercourse with the Consular officers.

The American Vice-Consul-General at Frankfort reports that the German manufacturers of boots and shoes have recently petitioned the Reichstag to raise the tariff on imported shoes, so that leather shoes weighing over 1,500 grams (3.3 pounds) shall henceforth pay an import duty of seventy pfennigs (17 cents) per pair; those of 500 to 1,500 grams (1.1 to 3.3 pounds) 1.50 marks (36 cents); and all below 500 grams weight, two marks (48 cents). The tariff is claimed to be necessary as a protection against American shoes.

THE ACETYLENE INDUSTRY IN GERMANY.
—One of the most remarkable instances of creation and rapid growth of an entirely new industry has been seen in Germany, during the last four years, in the manufacture of calcium carbide and the progress of acetylene gas lighting. Dr. Frederick Rose, British Consul at Stuttgart, gives some most interesting information on the rise, progress and present condition of the carbide and acetylene industries in Germany in a report which has just been published by the Foreign Office.

It is difficult at the present moment to give an accurate estimate of the number of acetylene installations in Germany. According to Knappich of Augsburg, it probably amounts to about 8,000, including small, medium, and large apparatus and installations, and gasworks for the lighting of small towns. In many instances it has been adopted by the German State authorities. In Bavaria alone, six railway stations will shortly be lighted by acetylene. The Imperial Post-Office has two of its Berlin branch post-offices lighted by acetylene, and has installed an apparatus with sixty jets in the Berlin head post-office. These latter instances are of some interest because acetylene was in competition with electricity.

The important questions of the construction of generators and the methods of generation have at length resolved themselves into definite proportions. It is almost unanimously agreed that the generators must be built of strong and durable materials, and that the method of generation must, above all things, exclude undue pressure and heating of the gas. For large installations of above 1,000 jets the system of generation, "carbide into water," is almost universally in use. The system of flooding carbide by water still holds its own, but the general trend of scientific opinion in Germany amongst acetylene chemists and engineers is all in favor of dropping the carbide into water.

Dr. Rose gives a number of instances of the practical use of Acetylene in industry. Acetylene gives three to four times as much lampblack as good oil-gas. It is of a deep black color and of excellent covering power. It is well adapted for printing purposes, giving a deep black clear impression, and is entirely free from tar compounds.

A new application of calcium carbide, which may become of great importance, consists in the production of pure metals from their ores by means of calcium carbide as a reducing agent. The process is very simple. In this way pure copper and lead can be procured from their respective ores, whilst several alloys can be obtained directly

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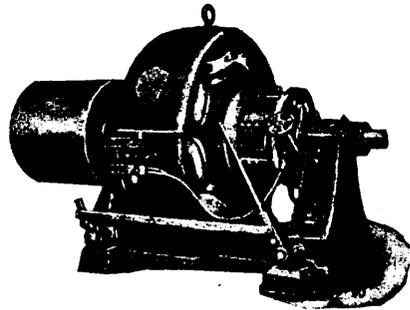
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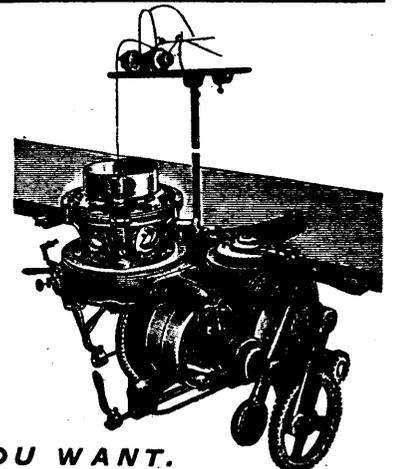
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