

### Something New in Water Power.

The Minneapolis *Journal* states that J. F. Beery, who has been with the Union Debenture Company for a number of years, has completed an invention that is destined, so our contemporary states, to revolutionize many of the methods at present employed in utilizing water power. The invention is a water wheel that is constructed on so easy and simple a plan that it seems a marvel it has not been thought of before. Mr. Beery has had the idea in mind for a year and a half past, but it was only about two months ago that the first machine was completed and set in motion. The present machine was put in place experimentally, and heavy cables used to make it fast to the shore. It is constructed of three boats or floats, made of heavy timbers. These floats are shaped like catamarans, about 18 ft. long, 5 ft. deep and 12 in. thick, placed in parallel positions about 10 ft. apart, and fastened together by timbers. On these boats are placed heavily braced bearings, about a foot high, to receive the central shaft on which the paddles revolve. At each side of the central float are the paddle wheels, which are built on two strongly braced iron frames in the form of equilateral triangles. Each wheel has three paddles, 4 by 8 ft., arranged so that they enter the water alternately, thus giving continuous power. The central shaft has a large cog-wheel which engages a small bevelled cog-wheel by which the number of revolutions is multiplied by 13. Power is transmitted by a grooved pulley on the bevel gear shaft.

In April, writes the *United States Miller*, under circumstances which were not the most favorable, the paddles made 83 revolutions per minute, making the revolutions per minute of the power wheel about 120. The amount of horse power is variously estimated at from 10 to 35, according to the speed of the current. The uses to which the wheel and the power obtained can be put are many, but the main idea is to use it in western streams for irrigating purposes and placer mining.

Mr. Beery has not yet decided what course to pursue in the construction of his machines, but he will probably manufacture them himself in Minneapolis. There is no question but that the invention will prove a valuable acquisition to the means already employed to utilize water power, as the machine can be used in any rapid watercourse, is portable and comparatively inexpensive, while the power can be applied to almost any use desired. Mr. Beery conceived the idea while watching the rapid current of the Snake River in Oregon, and has been working on the design ever since. Twelve or fifteen machines have already been ordered for use in Idaho and on the Columbia River in Oregon, and the construction of these will commence at once. The patent has been applied for.

### English the World Speech.

In an article on the importance of introducing into the schools the study of a universal language (*Weltsprache*), which recently appeared in the *Preussische Jahrbuecher*, Dr. Schroer advocates making the study of English obligatory, not necessarily to the exclusion of the classical tongues, but at least in conjunction with them. "This," he says, "is not a question of taste or rivalry between the 'moderns' and the 'ancients,' it is simply a historical necessity. The learned professor properly condemns all attempts, however scientific, to construct an artificial world-speech—like Volapuk. In his opinion a language which possesses neither literature, historical development nor linguistic relations can never serve as a medium of general communication, for the reason that no one will take the trouble to acquire it, merely as a 'tool of trade,' until it becomes universal. Such attempts, however, are not only aimless, because they can never obtain the general consent of mankind, but they are needless, for there exists already a universal language—i.e., a language which, by its spread

over the whole earth, and by the ease with which it may be learned, has gained such a long step in advance that neither natural nor artificial means can deprive it of its assured position as the future medium of international intercourse. And this language is the English.

Prof. Schroer is careful to warn his readers not to set their aim too high, for to learn to speak and write fluently and correctly a language which holds so high a place in the scale of culture and refinement as the English is difficult; but for the average man this is not necessary; but even the average Englishman has but a limited command of his mother tongue, and the small intercourse of life requires but a small and easily acquired vocabulary. This is true of every language, but the absence of puzzling genders and inflections and syntactical forms renders the English easy in comparison with others. "The English language," concludes Prof. Schroer, "is the world-speech, and will, to all appearance, become more and more so every year."

During the present century the English-speaking population of the world has increased five fold, from possibly 25,000,000 at its beginning to at least 125,000,000. No other language has ever been so rapidly developed; no fact in civil history is more significant than this. In every quarter of the world is the conquering tongue. The wide spread of the British colonial system, the marvelous growth of the United States and the facility with which it absorbs every foreign element bear witness to this great fact, and our cousins in Germany are of too practical a turn of mind to be jealous or forgetful of it.—*Baltimore Sun*.

### United States Cordage Company.

The United States Cordage Company, successor of the National Cordage Company, was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey, on December 26, its principal place of business being Jersey City. The total amount of the capital stock is \$34,000,000, of which \$20,000,000 is common stock, \$8,000,000 second preferred or preferred stock, and \$6,000,000 first preferred or preferred stock. The company is also authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$7,500,000. On December 18 the sale of the assets of the National Cordage Company to the reorganization committee was ratified, the amount paid being \$5,000,000, of which \$1,500,000 was cash and \$3,500,000 in bonds of the United States Cordage Company. The receiver's inventory was \$8,000,000. At a subsequent meeting of the interested parties the board of directors was named, and they elected the following officers: President, Rudolph Keppler; vice-president and treasurer pro tem, Wm. H. Corbin; secretary pro tem, Appleton Sturges.

A useful publication for bankers, accountants, etc., has been prepared by the Williams Book Co., of Toronto, giving interest tables at 3½ per cent. on any sum, for one day to 365 days.

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