

GOSSIP.

Recently a ewe, the property of James Delargy, Ballyvoy, Ireland, gave birth to four lambs. This is the fourth year in succession for this ewe to have four lambs at a birth, an achievement which entitles her to considerable distinction.

GERMAN PATENT OFFICE.

The following statistical information regarding the German Patent Office for 1909, has been furnished through the courtesy of Egerton R. Case, Patent Attorney, Temple Building, Toronto, Ontario.

The total number of applications filed, 44,411; applications originating in Germany, 34,998; originating in other countries, 9,413; originating in the United States, 1,913; originating in France, 1,552; originating in Great Britain, 1,301; originating in Switzerland, 1,080; originating in Austria, 1,034; originating in other countries, 2,533; total, 9,413.

The number of patents granted was 11,995. To German inventors, 8,166; to United States inventors, 935; to Great Britain inventors, 714; to France inventors, 590; to Austria inventors, 426; to Switzerland, 350; other countries, 814.

It will be noted that the number of patents granted to German inventors to applications filed was 231.3 per cent.; to United States applicants, 48.8 per cent.; to Britain, 55 per cent.; to French, 38 per cent.; to Austrians, 41 per cent.; to Swiss, 32.5 per cent., etc.

It will be noted that the higher ratios are to the countries where the strictest examinations are made.

In addition to the large number of patent applications filed in Germany during the year 1909, there were also 52,933 Gebrauchsmuster (or petty) patents applied for, making a total of 97,344 patents of the classes applied for, and 11,955 regular patents, and 43,510 Gebrauchsmuster issued, or a total of 55,505.

DAMMING THE ST. LAWRENCE.

A group of American capitalists are asking the Canadian and the United States Governments for a very valuable privilege on the St. Lawrence River. They want the right to generate, approximately, 600,000 h.p. of electric energy by damming that river at the Long Sault Rapids, near Cornwall. It is a somewhat difficult matter to realize at once just what that means, but when we are told that it would take pretty nearly one-half of the yearly output of all the coal mines in Canada to produce the same amount of 24-hour horse-power, it can readily be seen how valuable such a privilege would be to the capitalists at least. To Eastern Ontario, corporation control of that enormous energy might not be so advantageous. Large corporations with monopoly privileges have ever been noted for their strict adherence to the law of monopoly price, i.e., exacting as high a price as is compatible with the greatest possible profit. With them the interests of the consuming public are but incidental to corporation profits.

But there are other more serious objections to the scheme. These have been concisely set forth by the Commission of Conservation in a report on the project made last February before the International Waterways Commission—the tribunal that is to report upon the advisability of the proposed dam. The report of the Commission stated that Canadian interests are given a maximum consideration in the company's plans. Of the total proposed development only a small portion (one-sixth) would be developed on the Canadian side of the river. The Canadian market, of course, cannot at present absorb its own proposed development, and should it be exported to the United States, the United States interests it would create would prevent its subsequent development to meet the future needs in Canada.

Moreover, the scheme would divert the water from the river to the east side of the river, where it would be best used for navigation. Thus, if permitted, the dam, not only would be a financial difficulty for the company, but with the desperate competition on the St. Lawrence, it would become a financial disaster.



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