

Manard & Chiezo, 19, rue Neuve Popincourt, Paris, M. M. Luydo & Fille, 29, rue du Chateaudun, Paris, have been awarded the contract for the small metallic bridges for the Indo-Chinese railways at 350,000 francs, and Schneider & Cie., Creusot, that for the large metallic bridges at 3,700,000 francs.

It is stated that the shortage in the domestic coal supply this year will be fully 10,000,000 tons, a quantity which under existing conditions, Great Britain, Belgium and Germany, from which France draws her usual foreign supplies, are not in a position to furnish except at exorbitant prices. The prices for Cardiff steam coal at Rouen were at last reports from 36 to 42 francs per 600 kilograms (about \$11 to \$13 per ton of 2,240 pounds), and it is expected that prices will go still higher. With respect to answering French inquiries, producers and exporters are advised to write invariably in French and to make all statements as to prices, steam-raising quality of coal furnished, etc., in terms of the metric system.

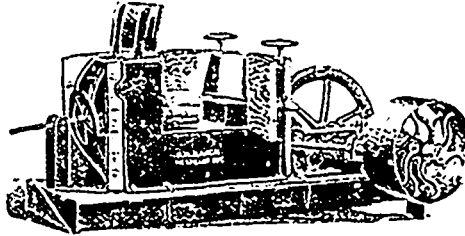
GERMANY.—The market for American machinery and machine tools is reported to be much restricted owing to the competition of German manufacturers who are offering similar articles of American design at greatly reduced prices. There continues a strong demand, however, for new machines of American design, but manufacturers having articles that they desire to push in the German market should be sure that they are fully protected by patents.

A conference with German tradesmen who have lived for years in the United States and England sustains my own opinion that folding beds at low prices, simply made, would find a ready market here. There would probably be a larger call for single than for double beds. They would be devoid of expensive ornamentation, and care should be taken to have the designs free from carving, as there is a heavy duty thereon, the Government refusing to make any distinction between hand and machine work. The mirrors should be supplied here, as

well as castors, weights, etc., that make expensive freights, and can be furnished here as advantageously as at home. So far as this office knows, the only folding beds in use here are iron frames, folding into small settees and beds, and ordinary iron bedsteads for servants. With such articles I cannot hope to see American goods compete successfully, but the luxurious American folding bed needs only to be shown to be appreciated. There ought to be a ready market for folding beds combined with book-

cases or wardrobes, especially the latter, as German homes are not supplied with closets, but are wholly dependent on wardrobes. The introduction of the simpler sorts might ultimately open up a market for our expensive styles.—United States Consul at Munich.

RUSSIA.—The question of the scarcity of fuel in Russia has long occupied the attention of scientists. Coal is found only in



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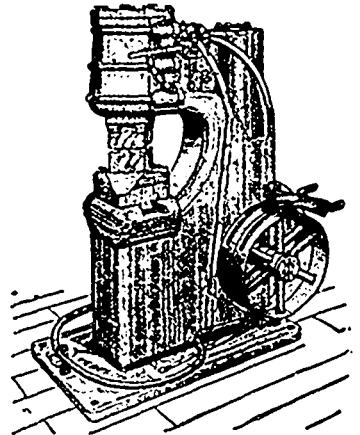
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