

A sensation was caused when Dr. Hommel exhibited a lump of pure platinum, which was obtained, he stated, by smelting 1 ton of concentrates obtained from 25 tons of crude ore. In addition to the platinum, the concentrates gave about 10 to 12 per cent nickel. The cost of production including mining would be about \$4.76 per ton, and ores containing no more than 5 grams platinum would be payable.

### CHEAPER PIG IRON

The Interstate Commerce Commission handed down on July 7th a decision of great importance to the pig iron business of the country.

The decision put into effect a substantial reduction on the freight rates on pig iron from Alabama, Tennessee and other Southern points to all Northern and Eastern consuming points. This will enable the Southern producers to effectively compete with the big pig iron producers of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan

and Illinois. In substance the commission has cut the rate approximately 35 cents a ton on all rail and something like 45 cents on rail and water hauls. The commission's order goes into effect on October 1st, 1914.

The protestants stated that the decision would force a general readjustment of prices on pig iron. Ohio and Pennsylvania furnace operators will be compelled to cut the price of their product in order to meet the new competition.

The decision was handed down on a complaint brought by the Sloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron Company and others in the Birmingham and Tennessee districts. After it was filed, foundries and other users of Southern pig iron located in the North, East and West intervened on behalf of the complainants. Furnace operators in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota made an organized effort to have the present rates maintained. The case has been pending for more than a year and the commission made an exhaustive investigation.

W. A. HAMOR

## PERSONAL NOTES

Dr. Arthur H. Elliott received the honorary degree of Master of Science on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the School of Mines, Columbia University, May 29th. Dr. Elliott is at present abroad and is representing the American Gas Institute at various gas association meetings advancing the interests of the International Gas Congress.

Dr. Edward Dyer Peters, Gordon McKay Professor of Metallurgy at Harvard University, has received the honorary degree of Doctor in Engineering from the Royal School of Mines, Freiberg, Saxony. The degree was conferred upon Professor Peters in recognition of his academic and practical services and writings on the metallurgy of copper.

A license agreement has been made between the Pittsburgh Iron and Steel Foundry Company of Midland, Pa., and the United Engineering and Foundry Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., by which the latter concern will be permitted to manufacture "adamite" steel rolls for rolling mills. "Adamite" is a patented alloy which has been owned by the former corporation for several years.

At its recent commencement Wesleyan University conferred the degree of Doctor of Science on Dr. Walter P. Bradley, who has this year retired from the professorship of chemistry which he had held since 1893.

Dr. Jokichi Takamine entertained, on July 8th at the Nippon Club, a number of friends at a Japanese dinner given in honor of Dr. L. H. Baekeland on the eve of his departure for Japan. Dr. Takamine officiated as toastmaster. Ellwood Hendrick directed to the guest of honor a characteristic and brilliant poem on the catalysis of friendship and good fellowship. The other speakers at the dinner were Charles F. McKenna, Charles Baskerville, Dr. H. Noguchi, M. C. Whitaker and H. S. May.

The U. S. District Court at Buffalo, Judge Hazel presiding, sustained Patent No. 939,757 of the Williams Patent Crusher & Pulverizer Co., in their suit against the Kinsey Manufacturing Co.

Dr. Hans Goldschmidt, the inventor of the Thermit Process and President of the Goldschmidt Thermit Co., is now paying his annual visit to the United States in order to keep in touch with his numerous interests in this country.

Dr. William L. Dudley, Dean of the Medical Department and Director of the chemical laboratories of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., had conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. by the University of Cincinnati at its recent commencement.

The Pittsburgh Iron and Steel Foundry Company is erecting additional open-hearth furnaces and plans to make other important extensions to their plant at Midland, Pa.

Dr. Jerome Alexander is convalescing from a serious illness which has confined him to his home for the past two months.

Keuffel & Esser announce the removal of their Chicago headquarters to a new seven-story building which they have purchased, at 516-520 South Dearborn Street, Chicago. The main portion of the building, which is centrally located near the Buren "loop" between Van Buren and Harrison Streets, will be occupied by their stockrooms and offices.

Dr. Ross A. Gortner, since 1909 resident investigator in biological chemistry at the station for experimental evolution of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has been appointed associate professor of soil chemistry in the University of Minnesota.

President Francis P. Venable has retired from the presidency of the University of North Carolina and has assumed the chair of the Francis Preston Venable Professorship of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina.

The Tagliabue Manufacturing Company have announced the issue of a Codex giving full information about industrial thermometers.

Ralph W. Perry, Ph.B. announces that he has severed his connection with the Michigan Central Railroad as Chemist and Engineer of Tests, in which capacity he has served them during the construction of the Detroit River Tunnel, the New Station and subsequent improvements to their terminal in the City of Detroit. Mr. Perry has leased the laboratory used in the above work for a general Chemical, Inspecting and Testing business to be known as the "Perry Testing Laboratory."

Professor J. Miller Thomson, F.R.S., is retiring at the end of this session from his position as Vice-principal of King's College, London and head of the chemical department of the college, after a service of forty-three years.

J. U. N. Dorr was given the honorary degree of Mining Engineer at the recent commencement of Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J., in recognition of his contributions to gold and silver metallurgy.

Archibald F. Law, Vice-President and General Manager of the Temple Iron Company, which controls furnaces at Temple, Pa., died at Scranton, Pa., on July 19, 1914, aged 58 years. Mr. Law's grandfather, Charles Law, introduced underground (shaft) mining in Pennsylvania.

Mr. C. M. Means, Electrical Engineer, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has been appointed Consulting Electrical Engineer with the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

Mr. Wm. W. Clark has resigned as Chief Chemist for the American Vanadium Co., and has accepted the position of Metallurgist with the Seymour Manufacturing Co., Seymour, Conn.

Joseph Soisson, aged 85, the pioneer manufacturer of firebrick used in the construction of coke ovens, died at his home in Connellsville, Pa., on July 19, 1914. Mr. Soisson began the manufacture of firebrick sixty-five years ago, and at the time of his death was the president of the Soisson Fire Brick Company.

The manufacturing plant of the Leicester Rubber Co., at Catawauqua, Pa., was totally destroyed by fire on July 19, 1914,

with a loss of \$75,000. The principal stockholders of the company reside at Trenton, N. J.

Plans are maturing at Sebring, Ohio, for the erection of a new pottery plant. There are five potteries in operation there now, having a combined capacity of 42 kilns. The new pottery will be of either six or nine kilns, and will add about \$12,000 to the monthly pay-roll of Sebring.

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

By R. S. McBRIDE, Bureau of Standards, Washington

**NOTICE**—Publications for which price is indicated can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Other publications can usually be supplied from the Bureau or Department from which they originate. Consular Reports are received by all large libraries and may be consulted there, or single numbers can be secured by application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington. The regular subscription rate for these Consular Reports mailed daily is \$2.50 per year, payable in advance, to the Superintendent of Documents.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Utilization of Alaskan Coal.** The Naval appropriation act of Aug. 22, 1912, provided for a survey and testing of coal from the Alaskan fields with a view to its availability for use by the ships of the U. S. Navy. The report resulting has been printed as House document 876, 63rd Congress. It is unfavorable to the use of Alaskan coal under existing conditions. The elaborate report fills a pamphlet of 123 pages illustrated by many plates and maps.

### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

**The Pollution of Tidal Water.** By HUGH S. CUMMING. Reprint 181 from the Public Health Reports. This is an address given before the Maryland Conservation Association, February 25, 1914. It discusses the bearing of tidal water pollution upon health and the importance to the State of its control. The subject is developed primarily from the hygienic standpoint, but is of interest also in connection with sewage disposal, water supply, and the shell-fish industry.

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Identification of Commercial Fertilizer Materials.** By WILLIAM H. FRY. Department Bulletin 97. 13 pages. Paper, 5 cents. This bulletin, which is contributed from the Bureau of Soils, "gives methods for identifying the carriers of the various fertilizing ingredients, and is intended to serve as a laboratory guide to those studying this phase of the fertilizer question."

**Arsenate of Lead as an Insecticide against the Tobacco Horn-worms in the Dark-Tobacco District.** By A. C. MORGAN and D. C. PARMAN. Farmers' Bulletin 595. 8 pages. This bulletin from the Bureau of Entomology is primarily of interest in the tobacco growing industry of Kentucky and Tennessee. It indicates, however, a probable outlet for the chemical product suggested.

**Economic Waste from Soil Erosion.** By R. O. E. DAVIS. Separate 624. 18 pages. 5 cuts. This pamphlet is an excerpt from the 1913 yearbook; it is a contribution from the Bureau of Soils.

**Hemp.** By LYSTER H. DEWEY. Separate 628. 63 pages. 15 cents. This excerpt from the 1913 yearbook gives an extended report which is developed largely from the standpoint of the fiber-plant investigator.

### BUREAU OF FISHERIES

**Fishery Industries.** By FRED M. CHAMBERLAIN and WARD T. BOWER. This article is included as one of the special papers in the report of the commissioner of fisheries for the year ending

June 30, 1913. It is of interest as giving a general summary of this industry.

### BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

**Cottonseed Products and their Competitors in Northern Europe.** By ERWIN W. THOMPSON. Special Agents' Series 84. 93 pages. Paper, 10 cents. Part 1 of this report is already issued; it deals with cake and meal. Part 2, which is to follow shortly, will deal with oils.

**Utilization of Potatoes in Europe.** By ROBERT P. SKINNER and other Consular Officers. Special Consular Report 64. 44 pages. 10 cents. This report is of interest in connection with the starch and alcohol industries as the statistics given indicate the consumption of potatoes in the various European districts not only as food and feeding material, but also in their industrial application.

### BUREAU OF STANDARDS

**Standard Analyzed Samples—General Information.** Supplement to accompany Circular 25. 5 pages. In this pamphlet are given the certificate analyses for the standard samples of iron, steel, ores, calorimetric materials, etc., which are issued by the Bureau of Standards.

**United States Specification for Portland Cement.** Second edition of Circular No. 33. 28 pages. The revised edition of this Circular includes only minor changes and additions from the 1st edition which was issued in July, 1913.

**Flame Standards in Photometry.** By E. B. ROSA and E. C. CRITTENDEN. Scientific Paper 222. 40 pages. This paper is a revision of one published in 1910 (Transactions of the Illuminating Engineering Society, 5, 753-78), entitled Report of Progress on Flame Standards. Further experiments are reported, but these have not materially changed the conclusions previously stated and many of the tables stand as in the original. The effect of atmospheric conditions upon several types of standard lamp is fully discussed and certain suggestions made as to the development of a primary standard for photometry.

**Special Studies in Electrolysis Mitigation.—No. 2. Electrolysis from Electric Railway Currents and Its Prevention; an Experimental Test on a System of Insulated Negative Feeders in St. Louis.** By E. B. ROSA, BURTON McCOLLUM and K. H. LOGAN. Technologic Paper 32. 34 pages. This paper gives experimental data obtained during the practical working out of a system in St. Louis. In general no chemical factors are considered, the problem being treated from the electrical engineering viewpoint.

**Combustion Method for the Direct Determination of Rubber.** By L. G. WESSON. Technologic Paper 35. 11 pages. This paper was printed in full in THIS JOURNAL, 6, pages 459-62.

### GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Useful Minerals of the United States.** Compiled by SAMUEL SANFORD and RALPH W. STONE. Bulletin 585. 250 pages. Paper, 20 cents. This bulletin contains first, a list of the occurrences for all commercially important deposits of minerals arranged alphabetically under each State; second, a glossary of over 400 names. This glossary includes in addition to the definitions, a list of the states in which the mineral occurs; it is, therefore, virtually an index to the first part. A general