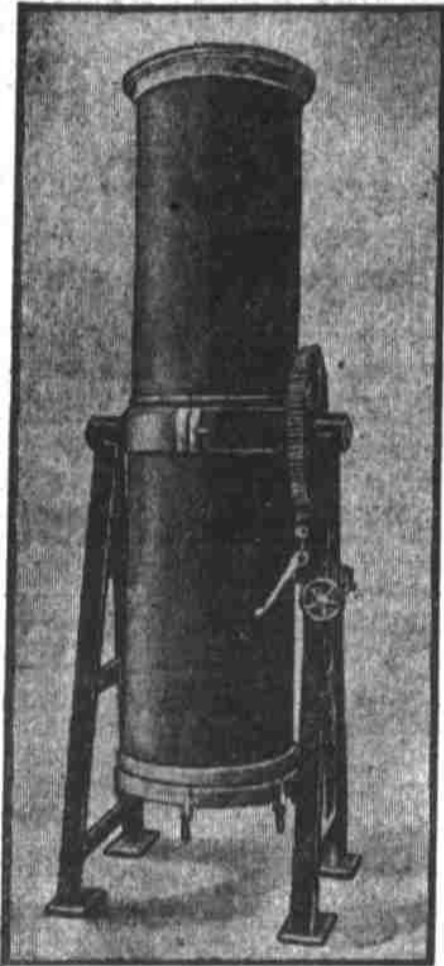


GREAT PRINTING PRESS ROLLER MAKING PLANT

Only One of Its Magnitude in the Pacific Coast Region.

Its Business Extends Across the Sea—Value of This Outfit Is \$15,000; of the Old Style, About \$100.00.

Herrick said: "Nothing is new; we walk where others went;" . . . And Pope: "Be not the first by whom the new are tried; Nor yet the last to lay the old aside." With all due respect to our old friend, Herrick, and with apologies to his cherished memory, the writer regretfully



The big gun closed ready for filling.

takes up his pen in dispute of his asseveration. There is something new, and, taking the advice of the distinguished Pope, it is delightful to say that the Pacific coast has not been "The last to lay the old aside."

It is not likely that one of every ten thousand readers of The Journal know the least mite about the one and great



Job gun closed ready for filling.



H. W. McNAMARA
Superintendent Roller Factory Operated by American Type Founders Company at Portland.

adjunct of the printing press that plays the most important part in the production of so well-printed and attractive a newspaper as this one that you are reading now. The Journal is printed upon a type of the most modern newspaper printing machine that the genius of man has ever produced. At the beginning of the present decade it would have been as impossible to have produced a fac-simile of the colored title page of this publication, as it is im-

possible to beckon the stars from their exalted orbits, or to be heeded if the tide were commanded to ebb no more.

possible to beckon the stars from their exalted orbits, or to be heeded if the tide were commanded to ebb no more. Yet this great printing press would be as useless to its owners as a rifle without its ammunition, were it not for the rollers that deliver the ink and spread it upon the faces of the types. The average person imagines them made of rubber, yet a rubber roller would be of no more account upon a printing press than a presidential message upon

the ingredients of which the modern roller is composed. A few years ago roller composition was made of a certain per cent of glue, a quantity of molasses and a part of glycerine. But the genius of the enterprising nabber of the dollars of the multitude—that own printing presses and purchase rollers—discovered improved ingredients for roller composition, and if the talented Brother Herrick were on earth today, and owned a modern print shop, he would

repet of his language and in equal eloquence assure the present bounding world that it is full of newness—chock full of it—glittering with newness—boiling over with that very necessary commodity.

Only a few years ago a roller-making outfit consisted of a cheap cast iron mould, a couple of tin pails, one inside the other the same as the present small fry glue pots. The composition was placed in the inner pail, hot water in the outer one, and the glue, glycerine and molasses, previously formed into cakes like maple sugar, were melted to the consistency of "blackstrap," poured into the well-greased mould, and next day, or when it had cooled, was forced out, and the roller considered ready for use. Today the glue is melted by steam, the added ingredients, whatever they are, mixed up with it by machinery, and from the composition kettle forced by compressed air into the big patent roller moulds cooled by cold water forced around the moulds by more machinery, the rollers drop out of their own accord—and there you are.

To be more explicit: The other day a Journal representative dropped into the roller-making department of the American Type Founders company in this city, and there had the pleasure of an agreeable and instructive conversation with H. W. McNamara, in charge of that division of the great concern. Mr. McNamara is a young man, formerly of Chicago, where he became skilled in the pursuit in which he is now engaged. He is an affable, fluent talker and very enthusiastic when relating the virtues of the extensive roller-making plant over which he presides. Pictures of the plant are shown here, and these portray its mechanism so completely that it is easy to understand from them the manner of its operation. The cost of its installation was about \$15,000, and of this Mr. McNamara said:

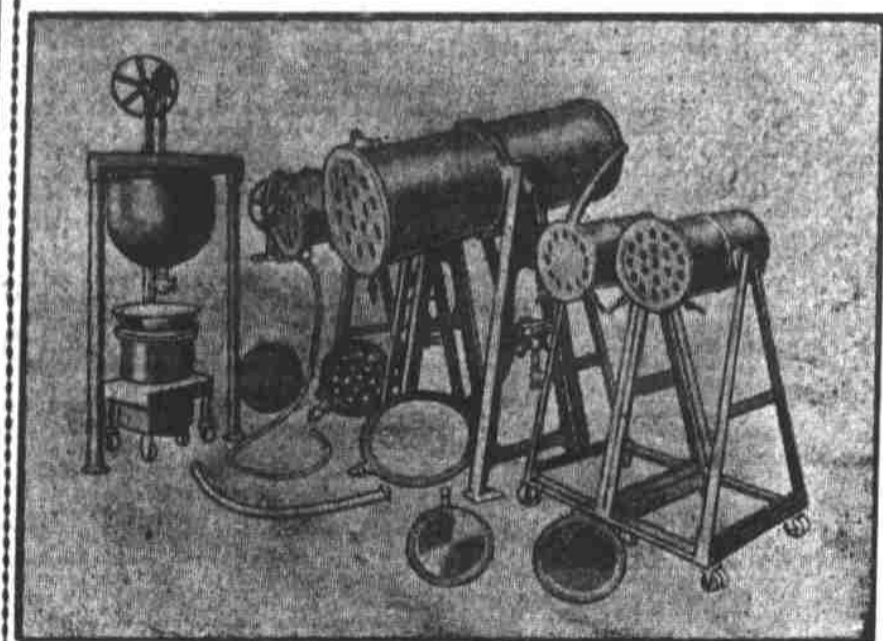
"It is through the untiring efforts, energy and persistency of purpose of John S. Pinney, manager of the Portland branch of the American Type Founders company, that this large plant is here in Portland. There is no other like it on this coast. San Francisco is, of course, the largest city of the extreme West, but that city has no roller-making plant at all comparable with this. In fact, so far as the manufacture of printing press rollers is concerned, the 'City' is a farmer town as compared with Portland."

Mr. McNamara thereupon explained the process by which he, with this modern outfit, produced these perfection rollers with a rapidity astounding to those of us accustomed to spend the better part of half a day in the industrious effort to turn out a single one. The steam cooking kettle first receives

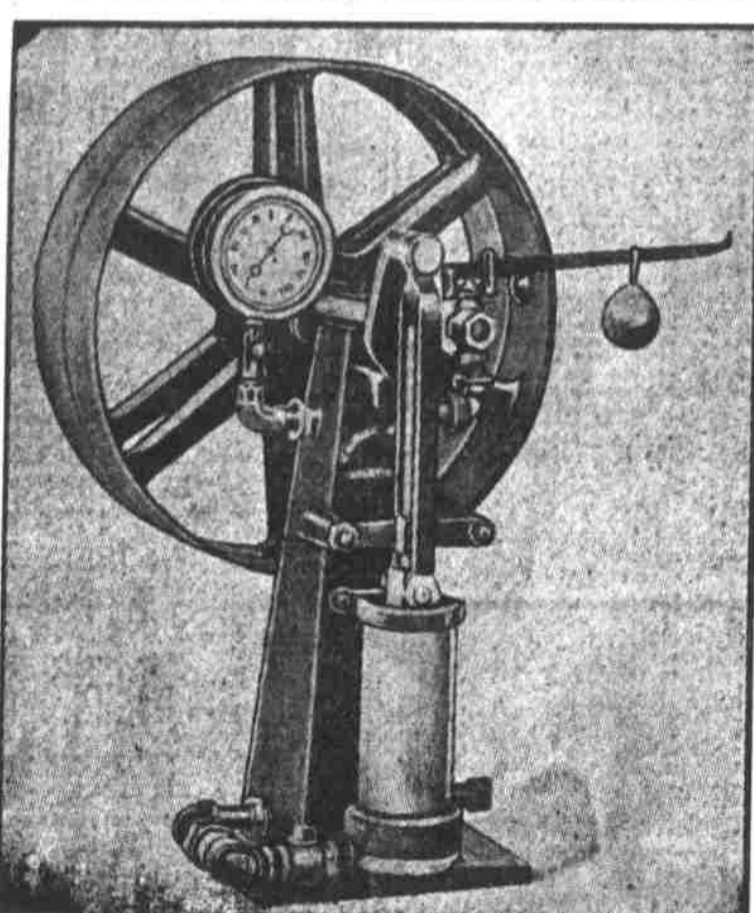


Copper steaming kettle with electric stirring mechanism, capacity 1/2 ton.

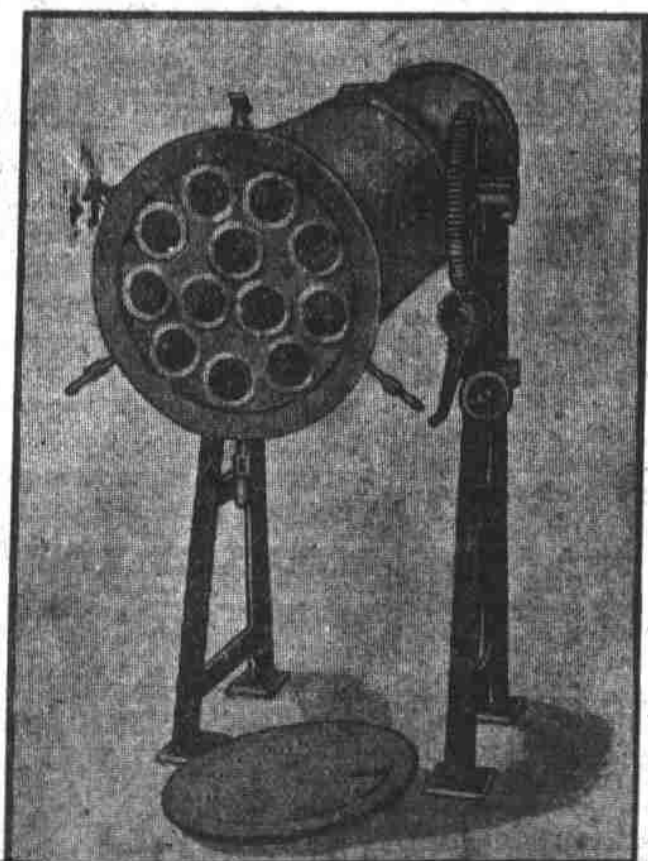
the roller composition, the ingredients of which, so far as this plant is concerned, at least, is a secret bound up in the bosom of the gentleman in charge. It is known, however, that glue, glycerine and honey form parts of its contents, but further deponent saith not. Here a steam operated apparatus keeps the contents of the kettle constantly



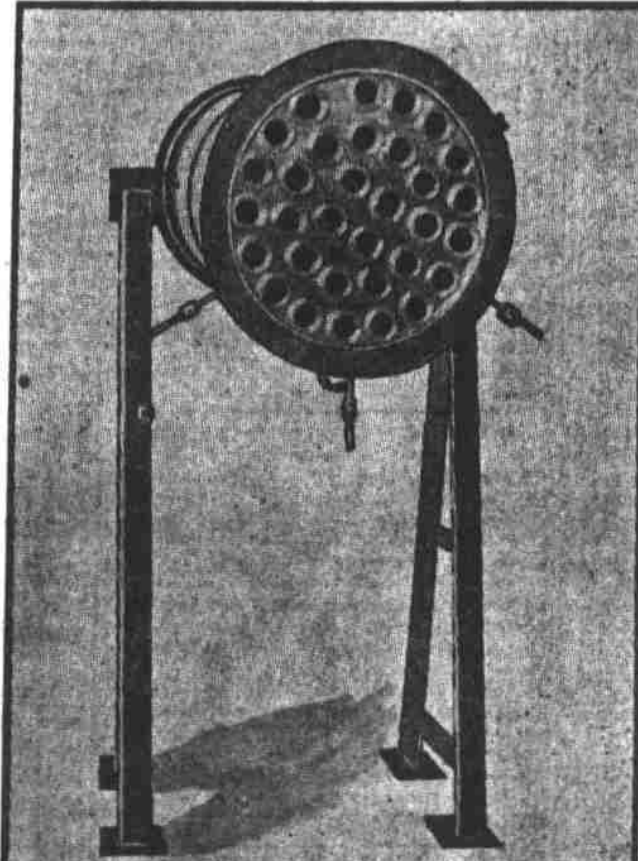
Galling gun roller machines in the American's plant.



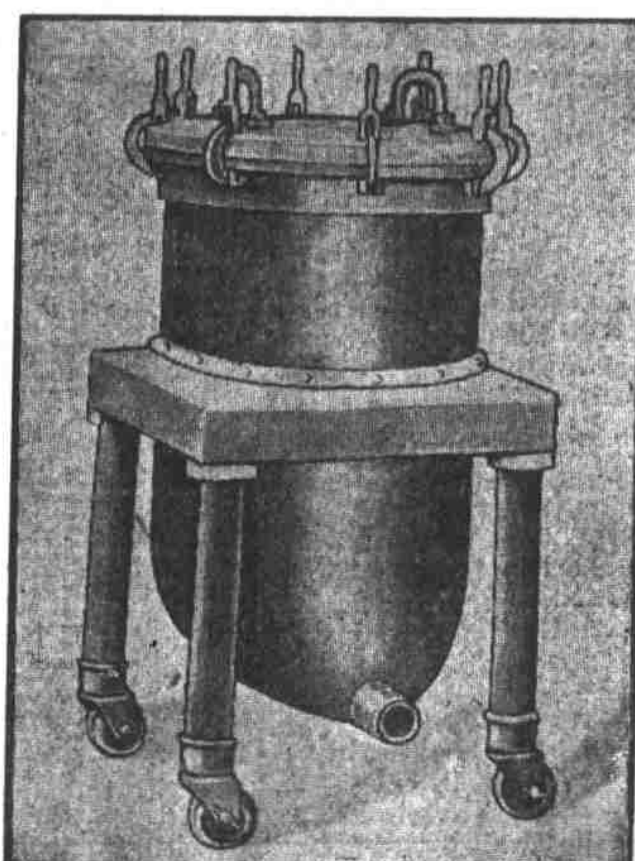
Air pump operated by electric motor for filling the guns.



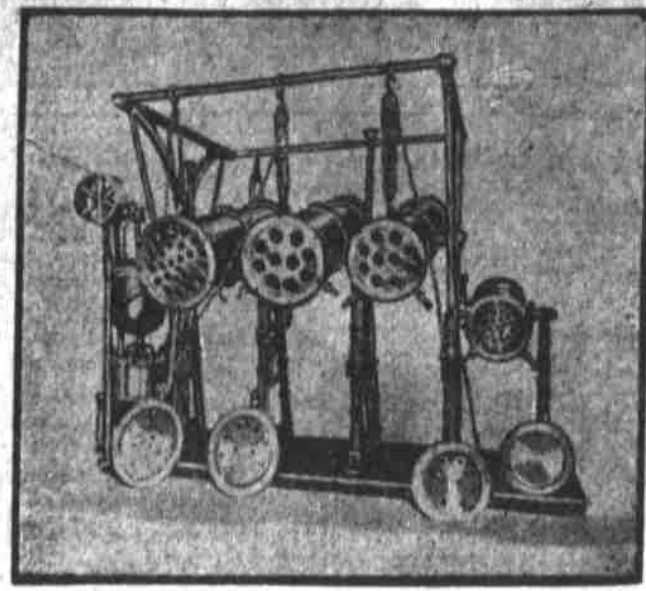
110 inch roller gun in the American plant. This gun makes The Journal rollers.



This gun makes the small rollers for job printers, capacity 32 at each filling.



Air Tight Pouring Kettle in the American Plant. Capacity One-Half Ton.



Four of the Big Guns Swung Into Position for Inspection.



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stirred until ready for the composition kettle. In this the stuff is heated and strained, and then by air pressure forced into the roller moulds from the bottom, not the top as was the case when rollers were made by hand. A heavy hose conveys the composition from the kettle to the moulds, and as the bore is filled, after the mold has been heated, the air ascends to the surface so that there are no blisters in the rollers, as there formerly was. Indeed the roller comes out from the mould of its own weight, as smooth as a silver knife blade. By the "fraternity" the moulds are called galling guns, and they very much resemble these deadly implements of war. In its horizontal position the "bore" are seen, and it may be interesting to know that these are cast with the same careful accuracy as the bore of the most perfect cannon in the world. The least deviation from "true" would render a roller not only useless, but dangerous, as, on fast presses, such as that upon which The Journal is printed, the smallest atom of inaccuracy would send the roller kiting, with the probable result that somebody would be badly injured. Therefore these roller moulds are actually "true as steel." In fact they are bored the same as cannon, and except for the strength required, are about as expensive.

It is a revelation to one who has visited this important little factory for the first time to witness the wholesale manner in which things are done, and to understand the broad scope of territory covered by its business. This embraces not only Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia and California, but far away up into Alaska, and the company is now reaching out to Hawaii and China and Japan.

Were it not for the accompanying cuts, it would be almost impossible to convey any intelligent idea of what is meant by a \$15,000 printing press roller plant, when it is understood that in olden times a model outfit might be had at from \$50 to \$100.

In Portland printers have no more thought of casting their own inking rollers. It would be a money losing proposition, and the advantages of the Portland product are now pretty thoroughly established throughout the entire Western section of the United States and Canada.

It is a new thing here, practically, but one that has invoked upon itself the blessing of nearly every press owner in all the tributary region.

Mr. Pinney is to be congratulated upon his enterprise. He deserves the pleasant things that are said about him by the printer men of Portland and the West at large.

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