

William D. Haywood, who needs no introduction to the mining world, has lately been running a strike among the silk mills of Patterson, N. J., or creating some kind of a disturbance, this being his present avocation, in connection with which he has charged that silk dresses are often six parts tin and only one part silk, the vile manufacturers thus deceiving the gentle consumers. To make things worse the tin is often obtained from dump heaps. Many women who think they are wearing silk dresses are in reality wearing tin dresses. This led one of the New York dailies to interview a silk manufacturer, who said: "Of course, silks are adulterated, or 'weighted,' with tin. I am surprised to find that it isn't generally known, as there has been no attempt at secrecy. Tin obtained from dumps isn't used even in the cheapest silk; I don't think such a thing would be possible. Perhaps it does seem strange that silk dresses are sometimes from 40 to 60% tin. The percentage of tin is seldom more than 60%, and in the filmy silks of light weave which are required by the fashions of today, it is impossible to use 60% of tin." Out of all this, chemists will deduce some glimmers of ideas about the detinning of scrap and the treatment of silk fiber with tin chloride (known in the trade as tin crystals). So far as we are aware, the changes in feminine fashions do not have any noteworthy effect upon the tin market. With tin at its present price, no lady ought to be ashamed to wear a tin dress, Mr. Haywood to the contrary notwithstanding.