

"FUELLESS MOTOR" IS NOT NEW IDEA, CLAIM

Old Records in Washington Show Five Patents on Inventions Believed Similar to Hendershott Brain Child Have Already Been Granted.

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Washington, March 8.—Five patents on inventions, believed to embody a principle similar to that of the so-called "fuelless motor" recently credited to Lester J. Hendershott of Pittsburgh, have already been granted by the United States patent office, the United Press learned today.

Experts at the patent office believe the devices to be commercially valueless and impracticable.

Patents could not be obtained on them today as inventors are now required to demonstrate the feasibility as well as the novelty of their brain children.

The first apparatus of this type was patented a year before the Civil war, 1860, by H. C. Vion, a resident of Paris, who wanted to protect his invention in this country.

Vion's idea was to extract electricity from the clouds and also from the earth by means of a captive balloon and a wire conductor.

This invention was later improved upon by a Philadelphian, William L. Pennock, who in 1909 obtained a pat-

ent on a similar device to capture electricity from the clouds and carry it through wires to an "energy accumulator." Pennock later took out a second patent covering a modified apparatus based on the same principle.

Still another method of extracting electricity from the air was patented in 1901 by A. Palenscar of Budapest, Hungary, who proposed to release energy by condensing water droplets in the air.

One of the most complicated schemes was patented in 1872 by William H. Ward of Auburn, N. Y., who proposed a plan whereby electricity in the air was to be projected from one tall tower to another. These towers were supposed to draw the electricity from the surrounding atmosphere and then release it in the direction of the prevailing winds.

Song Festival.

As part of the Girl Scouts' observance of, March as international month 17 of the local troops will take part in a folk song and dance festival next Saturday at 2:30 p. m. in the auditorium of the Moose temple, Penn ave. Admission is free.