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WONDERS OF ALUMINUM.

Now Used For the White Metal of the Future.

It is Driving Silver Out of the Arts to Some Extent—Kitchen Utensils and a Thousand Other Things Made of It—Vast Deposits of the Ore.

There is big news to be told about aluminum. It is now on the market at 6 1/2 a pound, and a thousand fresh uses for it have been discovered.

Aluminum is only exceeded in malleability by gold and silver. In point of ductility it is seventh among the metals, ranking after copper in that respect.

Aluminum is now made of future uses of aluminum is for kitchen utensils. The heavy iron pot, which the cook can scarcely lift off the fire, will be superseded by a vessel of the white metal that, while equal in capacity and strength, may be raised with a finger.

A new and beautiful alloy is produced by mixing twenty-two parts of aluminum with seventy-eight parts of gold, the result being a rich ruby tint.

as heavy, gold nearly eight times. It is not noted upon by organic secretions. Hence it is most serviceable for surgical instruments, for wire to sew up wounds, etc.

It is absolutely non-magnetic, and for this reason is largely employed for electric appliances. A small percentage of silver mixed with it hardens and strengthens it, making it most suitable for many kinds of engineering and other scientific apparatus.

It is a remarkably good conductor of heat and of electricity. On the latter account it was selected as the material of the pyramidal cap which now forms the apex of the Washington monument.

Aluminum was first isolated in 1827 by Wohler, who had previously discovered the metals barium, magnesium and calcium, obtaining them from alkaline earths by means of electricity.

For a long time this white metal was manufactured only in the laboratory of the chemist for the sake of experiment. Only half a dozen years ago melancholy notices were printed in the newspapers reporting the death of "the only man who possessed the secret of producing it in large quantities on an economical basis."

There are several well-authenticated cases where fright was the cause of death. An English surgeon tells of a drummer in India across whose legs a harmless lizard crawled while he was half asleep.

There is a French painter, Pentamer, who lived in the seventeenth century. One day he went into a room full of anatomical subjects to sketch some death heads and skeletons for a picture he intended to paint.

"Uncle," as applied to the pawnbroker, is a wretched pun on the Latin word uncus, a hook. Pawnbrokers employed a hook to lift articles pawned to upper shelves before spoons were adopted.

There are about eighty days in the year when the dreaded English channel is nearly as smooth as a mill pond; though there will generally occur a slight ground swell.

There is a French chemist, the concierge de prison is called "uncle," because the prisoners are "kept there in pawn" by the government. In the seventeenth century a usurer was called "my uncle" in the Wallon provinces, because of his near connection with spendthrifts, called in Latin, "nepotes," nephews.

WHERE YOU AT THE FAIR?

All These Things Were There—Did You See Them?

- Glass bricks.
Electric Lamps.
A \$15,000 clock.
A \$25,000 organ.
A golden chair.
An \$89,000 clock.
An \$40 onyx cane.
A bed worth \$950.
1500-year-old corn.
A \$1000 arm chair.
A \$1500 music box.
Dom Pedro's chair.
Micro incubators.
A \$300 Panama hat.
A \$2500 glass dress.
A 73-pound salmon.
A 42-foot high clock.
A cape worth \$17,500.
A pole 215 feet high.
Electrical engraving.
The Mayflower bible.
John Wesley's clock.
Lace at \$1000 a yard.
A 107-ton locomotive.
A \$500 sea-otter skin.
A 26-ton block of coal.
A buffalo in alabaster.
Milking by machinery.
A nugget worth \$41,883.
A plate valued at \$167.
A steam mocking-bird.
Footgear of 1500 sorts.
A spun-glass umbrella.
A palace built of corn.
Girdle valued at \$39,000.
A mantle marked \$1000.
A bureau 150 years old.
One of Gladstone's axes.
Leather of 300 varieties.
A \$19,000 gold certificate.
Tree 36 feet in diameter.
"Da-ra-ra" in Egyptian.
Diamonds worth \$140,000.
A fishing rod worth \$730.
A 150-year-old tea plant.
Grace Darling's life boat.
A bandsaw 22 1/2 feet long.
An orange "liberty bell."
Tea worth \$175 per pound.
A \$13,000 fisheries display.
Bamboo poles 70 feet long.
A steel ingot worth \$2250.
Watches valued at \$400,000.
Horse and rider in prunes.
Billiard balls worth \$89,000.
A \$35,000 solid silver model.
Japan exhibits corned beef.
A 30,000-pound block of salt.
A 300-year-old dwarf cedar.
A horse model costing \$4000.
American birds of 196 kinds.
A brick warship cost \$30,000.
Two miles of lunch counters.
Egyptian "bum bum" candy.
A sky-cycle or flying machine.
Java women affect white hose.
An 8000-pound piece of copper.
A 12-ton lump of crystal alum.
Forty races in friendly rivalry.
A Jersey cow valued at \$15,000.
An ammonia street car engine.
Chickens hatched by electricity.
A chocolate tower worth \$40,000.
Watches mounted on butterflies.
A cheese weighing 23,000 pounds.
The national capital in flowers.
Pearl necklace valued at \$100,000.
An exhibit of "swiftest" poisons.
A Krupp gun that shoots 20 miles.
An iron eagle with 3000 feathers.
A pavilion built of packing boxes.
The biggest molding in the world.
A shawl containing 21,000 stitches.
One jewelry exhibit worth \$400,000.
The judges of awards number 650.
A silver statue weighing 2 1/2 tons.
A hand that dates from 100 B. C.
Oregon shows an 82 pound salmon.
Brazil shows 2990 grades of coffee.
Oldest lathe extant—the Blanchard.
Munich shows an \$8750 microscope.
A 50-foot high anthracite pyramid.
Humpbacked whale, 47 1/2 feet long.
The Washington monument in coins.
A Japanese doll "baby" six feet high.
A stained glass window worth \$6000.
A group of windmills worth \$200,000.
A gold nugget weighing 3040 ounces.
Vases made in the fifteenth century.
Clay pipe smoked by Miles Standish.
The first umbrella imported to America.
World's Fair exhibitors number 50,000.
A Shakespearean vase valued at \$2000.
A set of 20 stamps valued at \$5000 each.
One hundred and twenty carloads of glass.
Log 42 inches square and 41 inches long.
A fountain that squirts California wine.
Paintings executed by Queen Victoria.
An elephant tusk weighing 158 pounds.
The lumber in the Ferris wheel cost \$12,000.
A piece of lead ore weighing 6500 pounds.
Sixty-nine engines operated the machinery.
A 52-ton gun, with 1000-pound projectiles.
A cook stove 25 feet high, 35 feet long, 20 feet wide.

SURE THAT CHICKENS TALK.

A Musical Director's Observations and Interesting Conclusions.

A Baltimore special says—Prof. Asger Hamerik, the director at the Peabody Conservatory of Music and the composer of Norse symphonies, says that he has made the discovery that chickens have a language which he, by careful attention and by experiments, has partially mastered. He says:

"Chickens are the greatest gossip in the world. I know they have a language, for when one is alone it will not talk at all. It may, perhaps, sing a little song to pass the time away, but it will not talk to itself. As soon, however, as it meets another the conversation will begin. Their voices are sometimes sweet and then again harsh and discordant as is the case with human beings. With me it makes a great difference whether a fowl's voice is pleasant or disagreeable, though most people do not seem to notice the distinction. My chickens have nearly always been of the Cochinchina breed, and as them I have paid most attention naturally, have discovered that they have very acute senses of vision, hearing, and taste, but they cannot smell. Their sense of taste is excellently developed, and after eating anything more than usual palatable they will give vent to an exclamation of pleasure, just as a person will say 'Ah!' or something of that kind under the same circumstances. They are peculiarly susceptible to certain colors. Red drives them crazy, while blue is not; their liking by any means. One day I noticed that my chickens in the back yard were in a terrible state of excitement. I accidentally found out the cause of it. There was a red curtain in the back window of a house next door, and I could see them glance up at this and utter their notes of alarm. I got the lady of the house to have the curtain re-moved and the commotion ceased. I tried an experiment with other colors, but they did not seem to mind any but blue, and this they did not like. I found if a blue ribbon or string was tied to one chicken's leg all the rest would keep away from it. 'I have noticed that chickens can distinguish between white and colored people. For the latter they have a special aversion. Whether it is because they know by instinct that negroes are so fond of them for eating purposes or not I cannot say. I once had five Cochinchina pullets to which I gave the names of Pete, Pat, Pit, Pot. Pete would respond readily when her name was called, but the others would come also with the exception of Pot, who would come when I called her. Pete would come when I called Pat, Pat and Pot, showing that she could not distinguish closely between the vowels i, a, and e short. There was such a difference between these and Pot that the latter would recognize her name as soon as called. If the consonants were transposed, and I would call Top instead of Pot, she would not notice. 'Crowing among roosters is a most interesting study. I have noted the crows of over 100 roosters and I have never found two alike. One may crow in this manner: 'Dam-didi-didi;' another may go, 'Dum-didi-didi-didi,' and so on. The crow is nearly always between 12 p. m. and 12 a. m., and is from three to seven seconds in duration. Roosters begin to crow at dawn and those further eastward crow the last. It is a kind of telegraph service from one to another. Generally there are seven crows given in the space of ten seconds from each other. Cocks crow a few minutes after being frightened and after eating, and I can almost tell exactly when they will begin. A rooster is by all odds the proudest thing on earth with no exception. A human being cannot compare with one in this respect. Prof. Hamerik has made so deep a study of chickens that he can imitate their movements and reproduce their voices."



A Substitute.

James—"What's the matter, Brown?"
Brown—"Everything going wrong. I tell you, old fellow, I feel like taking poison and committing suicide."

James—"Oh, come, come, don't do anything like that. Here, take another cigarette."

A Straight "Rainbow."

The peculiar phenomenon of a perfectly straight rainbow was witnessed at Abovone on the morning of the 26th of May, 1893. Stretching along the falls of Merven and Culbearn, and slightly below the top of the former, was a magnificent ribbon, exhibiting the full spectrum of colors from red to violet but without the slightest curve. The sun was shining in the east, while it was raining on Morven, which accounts for the colors, though it is not so easy to account for the absence of the arch. The lowest part of the ribbon showed the least refrangible colors. A white rainbow was seen in Edinburgh in January, 1878. A very remarkable mist-bow, or fog-bow was witnessed by Mr. Edward Whymper, in descending the Matterhorn, immediately after the disastrous accident which signalized his first ascent in 1865, and is figured, as well as described, in his work. In this case the circular bows were accompanied by straight, perpendicular, iridescent lines, which appeared by their intersections with the bows to produce figures in the form of a cross.—[Tit Bits.]

Young people who learn to work will always fare better than idlers and dawdlers. Even if they do not have to work, it is better to learn how against a time of misfortune. Wealth sometimes takes unto itself wings.

THE RUSSIAN FRONTIER.

How It Is Kept.

The Russian garrisons on the Prussian frontier have been in the recent years considerably strengthened. Until three or four years ago the so-called border consisted of comparatively few men only. Service on the frontier is very monotonous, and the men selected for this work are generally young recruits from the Eastern and central provinces of the Empire.

On the 1st and 15th of every month the frontier guards receive their hard-earned and scanty pay, and on the 2nd and 16th of the same month it is regularly expended in drink to the very last kopeck.

Then a bad time sets in for them, and they frequently take to stealing from the Prussian farm-houses across the border line. Sometimes, however, they meet with a piece of good luck. A Prussian hen or goose wanders innocently over the line and immediately disappears into the nearest Russian guard-house, where it forms a welcome addition to the frugal rations provided by the authorities. Complaint by the farmer is useless. He is told that the matter will be looked into, and that is the end of it.

At certain periods during the night an officer makes the round form post to post. Sometimes a signal shot is heard when smugglers are suspected to be in the neighbourhood of a sentry, the signal being taken up by one guard after another, until as many as five or six reports break the silence of midnight. Then, if it is a false alarm, all becomes still again.

On cold winter nights, when the icy east wind blows across the plains, wood fires like beacons flicker at intervals all along the line, and here and there can be seen the tall figure of a guard engaged in the vain attempt to thaw his frozen limbs.

The chief duty of Russian frontier guards consists in preventing smuggling and the introduction of nihilistic literature and proclamations into Russian territory. But the guards are often deceived—if they are not bribed by the smugglers, which is frequently the case: a snafu of affairs scarcely surprising when one considers their miserable pay.

Very ingenious tricks are resorted to in order to elude their vigilance. Two years ago some smugglers on the Prussian side began snowballing some villagers on the Russian territory, and the latter returned the attack. But in the snowballs which were thrown from the Prussian side into Russia yards of the most expensive Brussels lace were concealed. Thousands of nihilistic proclamations were on one occasion smuggled through Silesia into Russia in the hollow staves of persons who, disguised as pious pilgrims, successfully eluded the vigilance of the guards and the hawk-eyes of the Secret Police.

ANTS IN FLORIDA.

More of Them There than in Any Other Part of the World.

There are more ants to the square mile in Florida than in any other country in the world. There are ants which will measure more than half an inch in length, and then there are ants so small that they can scarcely be seen to move with the unaided eye. There are red ants and black ants, and troublesome ants. But as bad as they are, I have never heard of their eating the seat out of a man's trousers, as a missionary, the Rev. Mr. Wilson, once told the writer he saw the army ants do in India while the man was sitting on the earth for a few minutes beside him.

But the Florida ants will take out the lettuce and other minute seed from the soil in which they are planted and actually destroy the bed. They will suck the life out of acres of young cucumbers and melon plants, uproot strawberry plants, or cover the buds with earth to such an extent as to kill them. They will get into pie, pickle, sauce, sirup, sugar, or meat, in hash, will riddle a cake or fill a loaf of baker's bread till it is worthless. All remedies failing, I took to baiting them near their nests with slices of meat, bones, apple, and pear parings, and when I had from 50,000 to 100,000 out turned a kettle of boiling water on them. I have killed during the last week over 1,000,000 in the space of a quarter acre lot, and I have almost whipped them out. I had to do this to secure any lettuce plants, and many unobservant farmers complain of seedmen when they should attribute their troubles to insects.

It is very curious and instructive to see how promptly the ants which escape the scalding will go to work taking out the dead, and after piling them outside first, then go to excavating again and rebuilding their cells and runways. This being done very quickly the next work on hand is the laying in of a supply of food, by hauling the dead bodies of the hot-water victims into their storehouses. You may see a small black ant hauling and tugging at the carcass of a red ant twenty times its own weight, and he always succeeds, in the end, in landing it in the warehouse of the colony. Next you may see a sort of ambulance corps searching for the disabled. These are taken carefully to the underground house, where the surgeons and nurses are in waiting. Then, too, you may see the timekeepers and bosses directing this one, or turning another back on some errand or to some other duty. There is not a moment's delay, no halting feet, no idle hands, but all move as if it was their last day on earth, and this was the only hour in which to redeem a misspent life. For lessons in industry and perfect government go to the ants.

Can't Miss a Rattlesnake.

The writer saw an Indian kill a rattlesnake in a very peculiar manner recently. The rattler was about ten feet from the Indian, who was resting the rifle on his knee, apparently taking aim. Whenever he moved the weapon a few inches the snake would move around and get exactly in line with it. Then, to show how the thing was done, the Indian moved about the snake in a circle, and the reptile moved as if his tail was a pivot, always keeping his head and body in line with the gun. The Indian then agreed to bandage his eyes and shoot the snake in the mouth. The writer bandaged the Indian's eyes, and, holding the gun at arm's length, the latter pulled the trigger and the ball entered the snake's mouth.

"How did you take aim?" was the query. "The snake he take aim," was the reply. "We have talked with an old hunter on this proposition," and he claims that a rattlesnake will always range directly in line with a gun or stick pointed at it.—[Carson (Nov.) Appeal.]