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POTTERY MAKING IN CANADA

Many Varieties of Clay Available, but the Better Grades Are in Limited Supply.

Until comparatively recently no china tableware was manufactured in Canada. This condition, however, has been overcome by the establishment of a pottery at Oshawa, Ontario, and it is reported that another plant is to be operated at Port Hope, Ontario. The Oshawa plant is turning out from 50,000 to 75,000 pieces per week of tableware and art pottery, using largely Canadian raw materials.

Stoneware and other heavy domestic pottery, such as teapots, mixing bowls, etc., is made at St. John, N.B., Iberville, Que., Hamilton, Ont., and Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Pottery includes many varieties of ware and from different kinds of clay. The common flowerpot of the gardener is the simplest kind of pottery made in quantity; and the unglazed pottery of the European and Asiatic peasant and Indian pottery are examples of simple ware made for every day use, very often from the commonest brick clays. Porcelain, or china, is at the other extreme in the ceramic scale, and this class of pottery is made from the finest white burning kaolin, with which other ingredients are mixed.

There are several types of pottery between these extremes but in a general way they can be grouped into two classes—those which have a vitrified or non-absorbent body, and those having a soft body which is more or less porous. The latter require to be covered with a glaze, or enamel, in order to render them watertight, but vessels of the first type may be left unglazed and still hold water. Modern pottery, however, is nearly always finished with a glaze, or enamel, whether the body is porous or vitreous.

Varieties of Pottery.

The Mines Branch of the Department of Mines has carried out a number of investigations of the clays of Canada, and has reported upon the suitability of these for the manufacture of pottery and earthenware. Some of these goods and the varieties of clays entering into their composition are as follows:

Porcelain Ware—This class of ware is made from the finest white kaolin, after it has been thoroughly washed to clear it of quartz, mica, and other impurities. The kaolin is mixed with ball clay, flint and feldspar. The kaolin gives the body its pure white color, the ball clay serves as a bond and makes the wet body more plastic. The feldspar has a fluxing action that makes the burned ware hard and impervious, and the flint makes the ware somewhat porous so that a glaze may be applied. The mixture of these materials is fired at a high temperature, glazed and refired at a lower temperature. Some porcelains, such as electrical porcelain, are glazed before firing, thus accomplishing the work of two firings in one.

Stoneware Pottery—Articles for domestic use, like crocks, jugs, mixing bowls, teapots, etc., are generally made from stoneware which burns to a dense body of extreme hardness, varying in color from nearly white to dark grey. A great deal of the so-called art pottery is made from stoneware clays.

White Earthenware — The heavier kind of tableware known by various trade names, as white earthenware, ironstone, china, and white granite-ware, are made from mixtures of white burning clay and finely ground quartz and feldspar, burned to a fairly dense but porous body and covered with a clear glaze. A great variety of ornamental pottery is made of the white earthenware body covered with colored glazes.

Colored Earthenware — There is a great variety of pottery made from natural impure clays, which burn to colors ranging from light buff to deep red. Most of these clays soften and lose their shape if burned to too high a temperature, consequently the body remains porous after firing, and is then covered with glazes and enamel and refired.

Suitable Clays in Canada.

Stoneware clays are sparingly distributed in Canada and are accessible in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. This type of clay is generally very smooth and plastic in the natural state, and the color ranges from dark grey to almost white.

Ball clays are highly plastic, fine-grained clays, which burn to a white color, but in the raw state they are dark colored, sometimes approaching black. It is one of the ingredients used in compounding bodies for making white earthenware, white wall tile, electric porcelain, etc. There is a great variety in composition in the different ball clays, but none have been found in Canada, except among the great variety of white clays in southern Saskatchewan.

The name blue clay is often used in describing certain clays which are of a lead grey color, but the name is meaningless and has no significance, as a host of clays of widely different properties have a lead grey, or bluish color, in the raw state.

Commercial kaolins, or china clays, are residual clays derived from a rock composed mostly of feldspar, or containing little or no iron oxide. Crude kaolin, so far found in Canada, is at tery industry by washing, in order to free it from impurities, generally quartz grains. The washed kaolin is known by the name, china clay.

China clays are less plastic than stoneware clays and generally burn to a white porous mass. They are mixed with ball clay, feldspar and flint for the manufacture of porcelain and white earthenware bodies. The only kaollin, so far found in Canada, is at St. Remi d'Amherst, in Argenteuil County, Quebec.

Southern Saskatchewan is the only region in Canada where valuable clays occur in abundance. There is a variety of white and grey clays over a large area, varying from low-grade stoneware clays to fireclays. They are mined at two localities, East End and Willows. These clays will be found suitable for the manufacture of various kinds of pottery, including heavy tableware called white granite, or ironstone china.

The laboratories of the Mines Branch at Ottawa have tested out practically all the known clays of Canada, and results of these experiments are available. It is in this work that the Mines Department has proven itself so invaluable to industries dependent upon our mineral resources for raw materials, and much unnecessary investigation and expense will be saved to Canadian manufacturers contemplating engaging in clay-using industries if the information available at the Mines Branch is made use of.

Members of the Canadian Alpine Club are shown crossing a glacier near the crest of Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Rockies, 14,000 feet above sea level.

What is "Pedlar's French?"

The wiseacre says that the expression "Welsh rabbit" is a perversion of Welsh rarebit, but this is a mistake. The man who first made this suggestion had no sense of humor.

As a matter of fact, the table furnishes many examples of names of viands which have an alias of the same humorous description as Welsh rabbit. Sailors, for instance, call a shark steak "Folkestone beef," and fisher folk commonly call smoked herring "Digby chicken."

A similar instance to Welsh rabbit is provided by poached egg on toast being known as "Scotch woodcock," and an Australian leg of mutton as "Colonial goose.

In the sixteenth century slang was called "Pedlars French, and everybody has heard a cash register called a "Jew's piano." The fur trade has many aliases of this kind, like "bunny-seal," "marsh-squirrel," and "Alaskan sable," all of which are camouflage names for substitutes for the real article.

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME

Last Flower of the Year.

The gentian was the year's last child,
Born when the winds were hoarse and wild
With wailing over buried flowers,
The playmates of their sunnier hours.

The gentian hid a thoughtful eye
Beneath dark fringes, blue and shy,
Only by warmest moonbeams won,
To meet the welcome of the sun.

The gentian her long lashes through,
Looked up into the sky so blue,
And felt at home; the color there
The good God gave herself to wear.

The gentian searched the fields around
No flower-companion there she found;
Upward from all the woodland ways
Floated the aster's silvery rays.

The gentian shut her eyelids tight
On falling leaf and frosty night;
And close her azure mantle drew,
When dreary winds around her blew.

The gentian said, "The world is cold;
Yet one clear glimpse of heaven I hold.
The sun's last though is mine to keep!
Enough—now let me go to sleep."

—Lucy Larcom.

Strong Men of Old.

Feats of great strength have at all times excited much interest, and the more extraordinary examples have been deemed worthy of record by historians. Remarkable though present-day feats undoubtedly are, they have often been eclipsed by those recorded in bygone days.

One of the most famous strong men of antiquity was Polydamas, the Thessalian, who lived about 400 B.C. Wonderful stories are told of his colossal size and strength. On one occasion he is said to have held a wild bull so firmly by one of its hind feet that the animal in its struggles to release itself, wrenched off its hoof, while another feat for which he was renowned was the stopping of a chariot when driven at full speed by seizing the wheel.

Richard Coeur de Lion was an exceptionally strong man, and it is related of him that, while a prisoner in Germany in the hands of the emperor, he gave a terribly practical proof of the force of the blow he was able to deal with his clenched fist.

The son of his principal warder had invited the royal captive to an exchange of blows, and, winning the right to deliver the first punch by cast of the dice, struck the king a heavy blow on the side of the head, staggering him.

Richard, in his turn, now struck and "landed" on his opponent's ear with such force as to kill him on the spot. Sir Walter Scott, in his inimitable romance "Ivanhoe," makes use of the story in his relation of the exchange of buffets between the King and Friar Tuck.

Sunrise at Midnight.

You may think this impossible, but it is not. It is a fact which you have only to go to the proper place to witness. This proper place is North Cape, latitude seventy-two degrees. At this point, the sun, at one time of the year, does not set for several weeks; at another, it does not rise for several.

At last, on the proper day, according to the almanac, it shows its face. Afterwards, it remains for ten or twenty minutes, then goes down, and at length does not set at all, but makes an almost perfect circle round the sky, in full view.

At North Cape, during the time the sun does not set, the inhabitants tell that it is 12 o'clock at night by seeing the sun rise over the mountains. In Stockholm, the sun, in June, sets a short space before 10 o'clock. During the night, it is very light, owing to the passage of the sun round the earth toward the North Pole, and people can see to read at midnight.

At the end of the Gulf of Bothnia, there is a mountain, where, on the 21st of June, the sun does not set at all. This happens only on that night. The sun touches the horizon, but does not sink below it; in five minutes, it begins to ascend again.

Reverse English.

A native clerk in Manilla came into his master's office and asked for a transfer to some other department, or even another island.

"But why do you want to leave here?" asked the superior officer.

"Because," the man replied, "I am homesick."

"Oh, well, in that case there is no need for a transfer. I can arrange for you to have a little vacation and then you can come back. Where is your home?"

"Right here, boss," was the doleful reply, "and I am sick of it."

Sir Samuel Wilson, the new governor of Jamaica, left London recently with his wife and family to take over his post.

Love the Jealous.

I praised the daisies on my lawn,
And then my lady mowed them down.
My garden stones, improved by moss,
She moved—and that was Beauty's loss.
When I adored the sunlight, she
Kept a bright fire indoors for me.
She saw I loved the birds, and that
Made her one day bring home a cat.
She plucks my flowers to deck each room,
And make me follow where they bloom.
Because my friends were kind and many,
She said—"What need has Love of any?"
What is my gain, and what my loss?
Fire without sun, stones bare of moss,
Daisies beheaded, one by one;
The birds cat-hunted, friends all gone—
These are my losses; yet, I swear,
A love less jealous in its care
Would not be worth the changing skin
That she and I are living in.

—W. H. Davies.

Their Only Hope.

They were raw recruits that the sergeant was trying to knock into shape.

Very, very raw, he called them, and somthing else as well, as you may guess, if you know anything about sergeants.

On this occasion they were being instructed in the use of the rifle.

They fired at one thousand yards range, and missed the target altogether. Then at eight hundred yards, with the same result. By easy stages the distance was reduced to thirty yards, but still not a shot got home.

At last the patience of thier instructor was exhausted.

"Fix bayonets," he ordered. "Charge! It's your only hope!"

A Long Wedding Feast.

In India the wedding feast lasts for about twenty-four hours.

A Bee's Travels.

Experts figure that a bee must travel 40,000 miles to get a pound of honey.

London Feasts the Eye.

The face of every town has its delicious differentness," says C. E. Montague, "but of all cities, London, after all, is surly the finest to look at. You find it out if you have lived there in your youth, and then been long away, but sometimes revisit the place. You see it then with effectually opened eyes, as the man who has long been in some tropical wild sees rural England revealed while his train comes up from Plymouth through two hundred miles of trimmed, fenced garden, half-miraculous, half-laughable, and wholly endearing. Fleet Street when the lamps are being lit on a clear evening; Southwark, its ramshackle wharves and mud foreshores, seen from Waterloo Bridge at five o'clock on a sunny June morning, the eighteenth-century bank of the river looking across to its nineteenth-century bank; the Temple's enclaves of peace where, the roar of the sparrow, twenty years away, planted clear and edgy, like a little foreground figure, on that dim background of sound; the liberal arc of a mighty circle of buildings massed above the Embankment, drawn upon the darkness in dotted lines of light, as a night train brings you into Charing Cross; the long line of big ships dropping noiselessly down the silent river, past Greenwich and Grays, on the ebb of a midnight high tide—O, there are endless courses to this feast."

Rub Insect Bite.

Why, when bitten by an insect, do we instinctively rub the affected part? Massage, as applied not only to an insect bite but to almost any other injury, such as a bruise, is an instinct almost universal.

Its first reason is to wipe away the insect, or to assure ourselves what damage has really been effected. In the econd place, we unconsciously set up a counter-irritation of the nerves, which tends to distract our attention from the original ailment; and thirdly, by the actual pressure of the rubbing we check the flow of the blood in the area of the trouble and so "slow down" our capacity for feeling the pain.

The Bowdoin is shown after its trip in the Arctic regions, where it carried Capt. Donald MacMillan and his crew for 333 days of travel through snow and ice.

Warnings of Earthquakes Given by Sea Tides.

The recent discovery that tides are definitely affected by earthquakes has led to the announcement here that quakes may be predicted in the future by a close observation of abnormal rise and fall of the ocean in the vicinity of known tremor centres, says a Tokio despatch.

The authorities of the Weather Bureau in Chiba Prefecture, near Tokio, had an opportunity to test their theory when it was observed that the tide had been rising steadily off the coast at Choshi until the day of a quake when it had passed what is known as the danger point. On the morning following the tremor the water had receded and was four feet below the former mark. This fact, they believe, confirms the belief that serious disturbances in the earth's crust are preceded by an abnormal rise in the tide.

Before the earthquake disaster of September 1 the tide at Choshi had reached the danger mark some three months prior to the catastrophe.

The Boso promontory, which forms the extreme southern end of Chiba Perfecture, is thought to be about fifty miles from a spot in the Pacific agreed by experts to be an earthquake zone. This zone, the authorities point out, is the cause of a serious disturbance in the earth's crust at intervals of 100 years. The last catastrophe thought to have originated in this quake centre was a tidal wave which inundated Tokio and surrounding territory seventy years ago. According to this estimate, another colossal disaster is due in about thirty years. But the authorities in Chiba are reassuring the residents with the theory that they will be able to predict the quake by the tides and give out a warning.

Another Purpose.

Diner—"I say, waiter—do you call this bean soup?"

Waiter—"The cook does, sir."

"Why the bean in this soup isn't big enough to flavor it!"

"It isn't supposed to flavor it, sir. It is just supposed to christen it!"

Affixing Great Seal Takes Twenty Minutes.

Affixing the great seal, the lord chancellor's most treasured possession, is nowadays an impresive ceremony. Used to ratify the patents of peers, baronets, and judges of the high court, as well as for important state documents, the present seal was struck at the royal mint shortly after the King's accession. It is made of silver, measures six inches in diameter and cost £400.

Up to within recent years the great seal of England never left the lord chancellor's keeping. It was carried by him on all his journeys at home and abroad. Nowadays it is kept in a safe at the crown office.

Affixing the seal takes twenty minutes. Whenever it is used two officials of state, known respectively as "Chaff Wax" and the "Sealer," have to be present. In olden days theirs was a whole-time appointment. Now the titles are held by minor officials, a dummy great seal being used, except in the instances named above.

Her Fortune.

"What would you say her fortune is?"

"A small but attractive figure on presses it, I'd say."