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Navigation ARTIFICAL GOLD IS ADMITTED POSSIBILITY

Since Expressed Views of Half Century Opinions Have Changed

The disclaimer recently issued by exploitation. Sir William Ramsay, in which he definitely contradicts the rumor that he has reported favorably on the process of manufacturing gold, shows that speculators are already taking scientific opinion regards the transmutation of metals as an open possibility. The gradual disappearance plained by an eminent scientist.

ments thus arranged fell into fam- ture experiment. ilies, each member having similar but "However, I think one may say

finities. lution in opinion. The discovery of form one into another. But the idea oxygen in 1774 had overthrown many that gold will be the first artificial conceptions previously entertained by element to be constructed is probably scientists, and it had come to be sup- a delusion. A universal process of posed that the search for the trans- transmutation would throw our whole muting 'philosopher's stone,' which economic life into the most extraoroccupied the mediaeval alchemists, dinary quandary, and the difficulties was an entire delusion. This 'philoso- created by the discovery of a way to pher's stone' meant some substance make gold artificially would alone be by means of which the elements, and very disastrous. But the other minor indeed everything, could be turned transmutations, not bearing so directinto gold, and though probably a ly upon our standard of values, might good deal of honest research was un- be scientific benefits without becomdertaken in connection with the idea, ing the basis of too profitable exploiallsorts of frauds accompanied its tations."-London Telegraph.

"But since the whole method of mediaeval science has been generally discredited-whether accompanied by honest or by dishonest experimentsthe revival of the 'original substance' advantages of the fact that modern idea in 1869 was a very considerable revolution in opinion. However, the idea of artificial gold might not have entered the minds of modern specuof scepticism in this matter was ex- lators at all seriously if radium had remained undiscovered. But it was "The absurdity of a transmutation found that radium undergoes a sort of metals was adopted as a scientific of spontaneous decomposition, and dogma in the eighteenth century," he | that among the emanations which it said, "but since 1869 certain things gives off a totally different element, that have been discovered have shown namely, helium, is included. Here, that the dogma was premature, just | then, within the last decade science as it would still be premature to say has been brought to admit by facts that transmutation will ultimately that a spontaneous transmutation of be achieved. In 1869 the Russian elements does take place in nature. chemist, Mendeleeff, arranged the Therefore, scientists can no longer elements in the order of their atomic | deny that the transmutation of such weight, and from this arrangement elements as lead, gold, copper, nickel, conceived the hypothesis that they platinum, silver, mercury, radium, had all been evolved from some com- and so on, and even the creation of mon original substance. For the ele- artificial gold, are possibilities of fu-

accentuated properties as the atomic that scientists still maintain the imweight increased, and therefore the probability of this achievement, alold idea that the simple elementary though the state of scientific knowlsubstances stood absolutely apart one edge as it stands at the moment from another had to be abandoned. seems to oppose no insuperable bar-The hypothesis that an unknown sub- rier to it. But one may speculate stance or element, provisionally called | whether a universal method of trans-'protyle,' underlies their differences, mutation would be discovered. It was suggested to account for the af- appears to me that we shall conceivably be able to note affinities between "Now this was a considerable revo- certain elements, and even to trans-

SAVE YOUR SAWDUST IT WILL BE WORTH MONEY

To be Used for Manufature of Alcohol and Glucosce As An Experiment

construction of a plant to utilize now being erected. sawdust and other waste materials from Canadian lumber mills. Colonel J. B. Miller, President of the Polson Iron Works Company, and Professor Wallace P. Cohoe of Toronto are behind the scheme, which is entirely new in Canada, and involves the conversion of sawdust into glucose and by the addition of yeast the production of alcohol. It is be- recovered. The first stage of the oplieved the industry has a big future eration is known as the pre-cook. in the Dominion in view of the large output of lumber and the demand for the by-products of the waste.

made at the laboratory of Prof. Cohoe in Toronto recently, when operation then takes place very rapsawdusts derived from soft woods were treated with acids and converted into that form of sugar commonly called glucose. A specially design- to sink to zero, and the manhole coved vessel made of boiler plate used in the process. This can be dumped. The bright yellow sawdust ant, pool room, fruit store, butcher made almost any size. The one now is now golden brown in color. It has in use is four feet long and four feet in diameter. It is rotated by means been converted into glucose. of centre bearings, one of which is As much as forty per cent. has been hollow. Through this bearing steam and reacting materials are in- material which is soluble in water, troduced. The vessel is also vided with a manhole, through cent. is sugar. The glucose produced acid-proof lining prevents the iron tion battery and elevated to fermenvarious chemicals used.

ed down and steam is introduced operation. from a steam line through the holthe first stage of the operation are mass.

Hustling Work on Elk Lake Line

The T. & N. O. contractors for the Elk Lake branch have lost no time in getting to work. Twelve miles of the right of way has been cleared, and over three hundred men are at work on the construction.

Ballasting has commenced on the uncompleted portion of the Porcupine Plans are being prepared for the branch, and the depot at Timmins is

Chairman Englehart is hopeful that work on the new line will be sufficiently advanced to open for traffic by December 1. The outlook for the season's business is bright. A number of settlers are going into the country at points from Liskeard to Cochrane.

After the blow-off cock has been closed again reacting materials are A successful experimental run was introduced from a smaller vessel located alongside the larger one. The idly. When completed the blow-off cock is opened, the pressure allowed was er is taken off and the contents are lost its fibre, and a portion of it has

the converted in one operation into pro- although not all of this forty per which the sawdust to be treated is in the wood may be extracted by hot introduced and dumped. A special water in a properly-designed extracthell from being acted upon by the tation tanks, where yeast is added. When yeast is added to the glucose The operation consists of filling or fermentation starts and the glucose partially filling the reacting vessel, is converted into alcohol, which may which is called a digester. The man- be distilled and rectified, a very highhole cover is then put on and screw- grade alcohol being produced by this

If it is desired to make glucose low bearing. This heats up the con- from the sawdust the extracted matents of the digester, and when the terial is clarified. By this means it desired temperature has been attain- is possible to produce either a light Cobalt ed the by-products introduced during yellow glucose or a pure white solid