

**WHAT IS SAND?**

Few would suppose that there was any great difficulty in determining exactly what is meant by the word "sand," yet the Supreme court of Pennsylvania, in the case of Hendler vs. Lehigh Valley R. R. Co., has handed down a decision in which a legal definition of sand is given. The court rules that sand may or may not be a mineral, according to its composition. If made up entirely of grains of silica, for instance, it is a mineral, but if it is composed of grains of different substances, it must be classed in a technical sense as crushed rock.

The court declared that regarded from a commercial standpoint, the word "sand" has a different meaning. It defined "mineral" as any "inorganic substance found in nature, having sufficient value when separated from its surroundings to be mined, quarried or dug for its own sake or its own specific uses." Sand may come under this head, or it may not. Under this ruling, a deposit of pure quartz sand would be classed as a mineral, while ordinary sand, consisting of a mixture of various substances, would not be so regarded.

This question becomes important in cases, like the one decided in Pennsylvania, where, in granting a right of way to a railroad, all discovered mineral is retained by the grantor. A deposit of sand is of great value to the railroad for filling purposes, but if it be pure white quartz, suitable for making glass, it would revert to the

grantor, as a mineral.—The Record.

**ELASTIC ROOFING NAILS.**

Frank Gold, Richmond, Victoria, Australia, has invented and patented in all of the principal countries of the world an elastic roofing nail, which, when driven through corrugated iron roofing, adapts itself to the corrugations, making a water tight union, with no danger of the washer flattening out or getting loose. Mr. Gold has for many years been interested in the production of roofing nails, and has introduced a number of improvements along this line. When the population began to flow into Western Australia, owing to the discovery of gold, Mr. Gold recognized the need of a light, substantial roofing nail. The nails then on the market ran from 20 to 30 to the pound, and it cost about 25 cents for freight alone to deliver a pound of these nails at the gold fields. Mr. Gold then invented and patented the solid head roofing nail which runs about 90 to the pound, and secured a large number of sales all over Australia. While experimenting with some of them one day, he was impressed with the idea that a thin washer added to the solid head and galvanized on after being made would prove a great advantage. A number of such nails were made and tested practically, with such satisfactory results that the idea was patented, and the nails are now being sold in large quantities throughout the Australasian colonies.

**FINISHING MAPLE DOORS.**

In reply to the inquiry raised by one of their correspondents as to how maple doors should be prepared and why sandpapering is recommended between coats of hard oil a recent issue of the Painters' Magazine offers the following suggestions, which may possibly be of interest to some of our readers:

If you refer to natural finish of hard maple or bird's-eye maple, we would say that there is no filler required and that it should be finished in its own color—that is, kept as light as possible by the use of white shellac varnish for first and second coat and a very pale maple or ivory varnish for the finishing coat or coats. When hard it may be polished with fine effect, but sandpapering is not required unless the shellac varnish has not been applied evenly. Nor is sandpapering required on any kind of work that is treated with hard oil, unless the latter has become sandy from one cause or another.

Graining doors, etc., in imitation of maple needs much care and attention. The ground is a light cream tint, made with white lead and yellow ochre. The graining color is made of equal parts raw sienna and raw umber. Wipe out the lights that make the curl and blend lengthwise of the curl. Varnish with a thin pale varnish.

The death is announced of T. Viau, contractor, Hull, Que.

Bertrand & Chagnon, contractors, Montreal, have dissolved, also Peladeau & David, painters, Montreal.

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