

THE FIRST IRON BRIDGE.

At the present day, when we are accustomed to look upon iron as the chief constructive material with which civil engineers and architects all over the country deal, the first iron bridge that was ever built is a curious sight. This bridge, the arches of which were made of iron, was called "Iron bridge," and it was erected in 1778. It spans a little river in the county of Salop, on the railroad line from Shrewsbury to Worcester, in England.

The braces were cast at Coalbrookdale, every bar being composed of two segments. Stephenson, the great civil engineer, wrote as follows on the construction of this first iron bridge: "When we bear in mind that the manipulation of cast iron was at the time of its erection in its infancy we cannot help but feel convinced that unblushing audacity alone could conceive of such an enterprise and the intelligence with which the details were outlined and executed is equal to the boldness of the conception."

WIRE ROPE TESTS.

At the Sheffield Testing Works, recently, some interesting tests were made with wire ropes, which, says the local Telegraph, reflected credit not only upon the manufacturers of the ropes, Messrs. W. Cooke and Company, Limited, but upon Mr. Thomas Nash, M.I.M.E., the proprietor and manager. Messrs. Cooke have just completed an order for the China Japan Trading Company, for wire ropes to be used in mines in China and Japan.

witnessed by Mr. T. Wilkinson, the managing director of Messrs. Cooke, who was extremely satisfied with the results, the rope standing a much heavier strain than was required by the company. The ordinary working strain of the ropes will be about a fourth of that employed them.

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Prices of Building Materials.

Table listing lumber prices for various types of wood and dimensions, including items like '1 1/2 inch and thicker clear picks, Am. ins.' and 'XXX shingles, sawn.'

Table listing prices for Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada, including items like 'Fastlake steel shingles (galvanized)' and 'Improved Broad Rib Roofing (galvanized)'. Prices are given per square.

Table listing prices for Canada Galvanizing & Steel Roofing Co., including items like 'Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 22, 24, and 26 W. G.' and 'Standard shingles, steel, galvanized'.

Large table of YARD QUOTATIONS for various building materials. Includes sections for 'BRICK', 'STONE', 'PAINTS', and 'HARDWARE'. Lists items like 'Mill cull boards and scantling', 'Common Walling', 'White lead', and 'Steel nails' with their respective prices.