

handsome gold bar weighing 81 ounces. The mine is now looking better than over.

Immense quantities of gypsum will be used in the construction of the World's Fair buildings in Chicago.

It is one of the constituents of "staff," thirty-two thousand tons or two thousand carloads of which will be used in the construction of the main buildings, and it has been decided that all the buildings shall be faced with this material. Staff was invented in France about 1876, and first used in the buildings of the Paris Exposition in 1878. It is composed chiefly of powdered gypsum, the other constituents being alumina, glycerine and dextrine. These are mixed with water without heat, and cast in moulds in any desired shape and allowed to harden.

The natural color is a murky white, but other colors are produced by external washes, rather than by additional ingredients. To prevent brittleness the material is cast around a coarse cloth, bagging or oakum. The cast is shallow and about half an inch thick. They may be in any form—in imitation of cut stone, rock faced stone, mouldings, or the most delicate designs. For the lower portions of the walls the material is mixed with cement, which makes it hard. The material is impervious to water.

**ALUMINUM FIFTY CENTS A POUND.**—No piece of recent news is more important than that which comes from one of the companies engaged in the manufacture of aluminum. For many years this valuable metal has been the subject of successful study by chemists, who have known that if cheaply produced it would replace other metals now in use in many departments of the arts. Ten years ago aluminum was worth \$10 a pound. Then the Castner process, by lessening the cost of sodium, brought the price down by one-half, sodium being the chief expense in obtaining aluminum by the old process. Then electricians took hold of the matter and soon brought the price down to \$2, at which figure it has remained for the last two years. But this price, although but a fraction of the old rates, was still too high. It was low enough to increase enormously the output of aluminum opera glasses and toys, and to cause a sudden energy in the production of aluminum bronzes; but it did not make aluminum an active competitor of copper, for example, in the world's industries.

If aluminum can be sold, however, at the price now announced, the effect upon the world's welfare will be almost revolutionary. Aluminum has a specific gravity of but 2.67, while that of copper is 8.78. In other words, a pound of aluminum is as big as three and a quarter pounds of copper. Aluminum at 50 cents a pound, to put it still differently, is as cheap as copper at 15 cents a pound.

And in many ways—in almost every way—aluminum is a better, a more useful metal than copper. Its lightness, its enormous tensile strength, its ductility, its non-corrosiveness—everything conspires to make it the most valuable metal known to man, excepting only iron. And even iron gains in value by the introduction of a small per cent. of the aluminum; while the aluminum bronzes—copper 92 per cent., aluminum 8 per cent., and the varieties of this proportion—are the best known to the metal workers. It is to be feared that the price now announced is fictitious and brought about by the competition between producers. But if moderately pure aluminum can really be sold at \$1,000 a ton, it is safe to say that we are standing on the threshold of an industrial revolution.—*New York Advertiser.*

We trust that no delay will be made in appointing a commissioner to represent Nova Scotia at the World's Fair in Chicago, and that one of his first acts will be the securing of space in the mineral exhibition building.

The work of collecting specimens for the mineral exhibit should be begun at once, so that the Province may be properly represented.

It is astonishing to note the ignorance that exists abroad in regard to the mineral worth of Nova Scotia, and the best way to overcome this is to have a complete collection of our minerals at Chicago.

The scientists of the world will be there collected, and the commissioner appointed should be our ablest man.

A venturesome miner, clad in a complete suit of diver's armor, went into the burning mine at Republic, Mich. He fought the flames with a small hose sufficiently to make his way into the mine for some distance. He found that the fire was burning down to the sixth level. The damage so far done will reach nearly \$250,000 and no limit can be set to what may yet be done.

The present rate of consumption of coal in London is 9,709,000 tons per annum, which corresponds to 25,000 tons per diem.

The total coal production of the world is about 40,000,000 tons, of which Great Britain produces nearly 40 per cent. and the United States 24 per cent.

**CAPE BRETON.**—Little seems to have been done on the promising leads at Middle River.

**SOUTH UNIAKKE.**—The properties in this district now working are meeting with great success.

**BEAVER DAM.**—Mr. Turnbull continues operations here, and we hope soon to be able to report with what success.

**OLDHAM.**—The Concord Gold Mining Company are pushing work and meeting with success. Mr. F. R. Tackaberry, of Boston, one of the company, has just paid the mine a flying visit.



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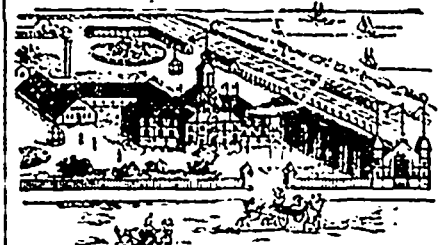
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