

USEFUL HINTS.

The American Machinist says that vaseline is one of the best things for preventing bright iron work from rusting.

The heart of the oak begins to rot at about the age of 300 years. The holly oak alone escapes this law, it is said, and there is a specimen of this age, 410 years, in existence near Aschaffenburg, Germany.

At a test of steel manufactured at the Carpenter Steel Works, Reading, Pa., a one-inch bar broke at a strain of 238,833 pounds, being about 20,000 pounds in excess of the highest record authoritatively known.

A good waterproof glue can be made by boiling 8 parts of common glue with 30 of water until a strong solution is obtained; add 4 1/2 of boiled linseed oil, and let the mixture boil 2 1/2 minutes, stirring constantly.

Paint can be made to stick to zinc by first using the following wash (recommended by Boettger):—Chloride of copper, 1 part; nitrate of copper, 1 part; sal ammoniac, 1 part; water, 64 parts. This wash coat is to be left for 24 hours before applying to the paint.

Aluminum bronze of ten per cent., it is claimed, has a working strength of 310,000 pounds, as against 80,000 pounds for steel; hence, when the time comes, which cannot be far distant, for building bridges of aluminum or its alloy, we shall have a structure about one-third the present weight, and much stronger.

The lacquer used on chandelier work is made of shellac and 95 per cent. of alcohol, very thin, and slightly colored with dragon's blood to give it an orange color. The lacquer should stand for a few days for the insoluble part of the gum to settle; the clear lacquer should then be poured off and filtered.

The following varnish will maintain its transparency, and the metallic brilliancy of the articles will not be obscured: Dissolve 10 parts of clear grains of mastic, 5 of camphor, 5 of sandarach, and 5 of elemi in a sufficient quantity of alcohol, and apply without heat.

In Germany wood with a mirror polish is coming into use for ornamental purposes in place of metal. The wood is first submitted to a bath of caustic alkali for two or three days at a temperature of about 175 degrees Fah., then dipped into hydro-sulphate of calcium for 24 to 39 hours, after which a concentrated solution of sulphur is added. After another dip in an acetate of lead solution at about 100 degrees a shining metallic surface is given by polishing when dry with lead, tin or zinc.

Slating is estimated by the "square," which is the quantity required to cover

100 square feet. The slates are usually laid so that the third laps the first three inches. Therefore to compute the number of slates of a given size required per square: subtract three inches from the length of the slate, multiply the remainder by the width, and divide by two. This will give the number of square inches covered per slate; divide 14,400 (the number of square inches in a square) by the number so found, and the result will be the number of slates required,

Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER.

Table listing lumber prices for various types like 'CAN OR CARGO LOTS', '1 1/4 and thicker clear picks', '1 1/4 and thicker, three uppers', etc.

Table titled 'YARD QUOTATIONS' listing prices for 'Mill cull boards and scantling', 'Shipping cut boards, promiscuous widths', etc.

Table listing prices for 'B. M.' materials like '1 1/4 inch flooring, dressed, F. M.', '1 1/4 inch flooring rough, B. M.', etc.

Table titled 'BRICK—M' listing prices for 'Common Walling', 'Good Facing', 'Sewer'.

Table titled 'Pressed Brick' listing prices for 'Plain brick, f. o. b. at Milton', 'Hard Building', 'Moulded and Ornamental', etc.

Table titled 'Stone' listing prices for 'Common Rubble, Per Toise', 'Foundation Blocks, Cubic Foot'.

Table titled 'Slate: Roofing' listing prices for 'red', 'purple', 'untinting green', 'black slate'.

Table titled 'Sand' listing price for 'Per Load of 1 1/2 Cubic Yards'.

Table titled 'PAINTS. (In oil, @ lb.)' listing prices for 'White lead, Can.', 'zinc, Can.', 'Red lead, Eng.', etc.

Table titled 'CEMENT, LIME, etc.' listing prices for 'Lime, Per Barrel of 2 bushels, Grey', 'Plaster, Calcined, New Brunswick', etc.

Table titled 'HARDWARE' listing prices for 'Cut Nails: American Pattern, 1 1/4 inch, per keg', 'Canadian Pattern, 1 1/4 inch, per keg', etc.

Handwritten letter from G. H. Mortimer Esq., Montreal, October 14th 1890, addressed to the Canadian Contract Record. The letter discusses a resolution adopted at the First Annual Meeting of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects.

Table listing prices for '1 1/4 inch flooring', '1 1/2 inch flooring', 'XXX shingles, sawn', 'XX shingles, sawn'.

Table titled 'Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada' listing prices for 'Eastlake steel shingles (galvanized)', 'Improved Broad Rib Roofing', etc.

Table titled 'Canada Galvanizing & Steel Roofing Co.' listing prices for 'Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 26 W.G.', 'Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 28 W.G.', etc.