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THE THERMOMETER.—It is probably not generally known, says Popular Science Monthly, that the thermometer was invented by Galileo. When we remember that we owe to this one man not only the foundations of physical science, but also in large measure the pendulum, the compass, the telescope, and the microscope, it may lead to a certain amount of modesty in our appreciation of modern inventions.

Galileo, probably in 1595, invented the open air thermoscope. Ferdinand II. of Tuscany, first sealed the glass, making the instrument independent of atmospheric pressure. Many improvements were gradually made, especially in the endeavor to fix points on a definite scale, the freezing point of water, being first used by Robert Hooke in 1664. Of the three thermometers still in use, Fahrenheit's thermometer was invented in 1709, Reaumur's instrument in 1730, and the scale of Celsius—the centigrade scale—in 1742. None of these thermometers, however, is now used in the form in which it was originally devised. It is a somewhat curious fact that the instrument constructed by the German, Fahrenheit, is used almost exclusively by the English-speaking peoples; that invented by the Frenchman, Reaumur, is used chiefly in the north of Europe, while that of the Swede, Celsius, is used in French-speaking countries. The centigrade scale, the zero point of which is the freezing point of water, is now used nearly universally in scientific investigations. The main objection to its common use is the length of the degree, the interval between the freezing and the boiling point of water being divided into 100 instead of 180 degrees, as on the Fahrenheit scale. This makes the length of a centigrade degree nearly twice—nine-fifths—that of the more familiar Fahrenheit degree.

The Ontario Commissioner of Crown Lands has received a copy of a pamphlet in French, which has been issued by M. Romanet du Gailland of Paris, France, on nickel deposits of the Sudbury region. M. Gailland speaks of the Sudbury nickel deposits in the highest terms and regards prospects of a great development of them as most encouraging to Canada. He also refers in terms of approbation to the energy with which the enterprises of Mr. Clergue in connection with development of the nickel and steel industries are being conducted. Mr. Clergue's railway enterprises, and especially the Manitoulin & North Shore line, are regarded by M. Gailland as factors of the utmost importance in opening up the rich natural resources of this section of Ontario. In view of the fact that the only other known nickel deposit of any extent in the world, at New Caledonia, is under French control, this testimony by an expert of standing in France of the value of our nickel deposits is accepted by the Crown Lands Department as especially gratifying.

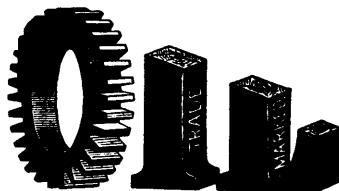
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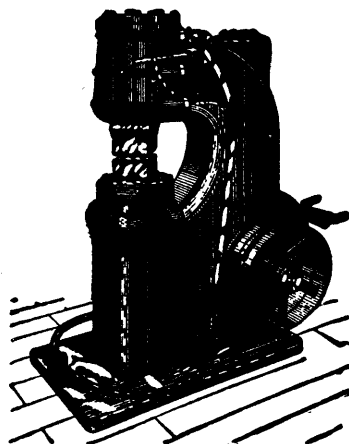
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