USES OF SOAPSTONE.

When exposed to fire or to changes of atmosphere soapstone is one of the most durable substances known, expanding and contracting very little, even at extreme degrees of heat or cold For this reason it is used very extensively instead of fire-brick in the construction of furnaces for the reduction of ores by fluxes, for crucibles, and the linings of boilers, ranges and heaters. One of its principal uses is for the manufacture of laundry, bath, and acid tubs. It does not absorb acid or grease, and is easily cleansed of any adherent impurities by washing. Soapstone is now receiving some attention as a material for the manufacture of fire-proof, water-proof, and acid-proof paint. For this purpose it is useful as a protective covering for iron and steel ships and other marine structures, for preserving limestone and sandstone structures against atmospheric changes, and in a number of similar ways.

In this application of soapstone to the arts it may be said that the civilization of China has shown greater advancement than that of the western hemisphere. In China soapstone is largely used for preserving structures built of sandstone and other stones which are liable to disintegrate under atmospheric influences, and the covering of powdered soapstone in the form of paint on some obelisks in China, which were hewn out of stones liable to suffer from climatic changes, is said to have preserved the same intact for hundreds of years. Soapstone possesses one peculiar quality which fits it for the manufacture of a protective paint for metals, and that is the extreme fineness of its grain. Ground soapstone is one of the finest materials which can be produced, and adheres easily and firmly to iron and steel. Moreover, it is lighter than metallic pigments, and if mixed as a paint will cover a larger surface than zinc white, red lead, or oxide of iron. It is used as a lubricant in the form of what is known as steatite grease, and is said to be invaluable as a preventative of hot boxes.

THE COMPOSITION OF BRONZE.

This composition varied so much then (in ancient times), and varies so much in different processes in different countries at the present time, that it is simply impossible to define exactly the meaning of the word bronze, since it is copper alloyed with any one or several of many other metals. Thus the ancient Greek or Roman alloys consisted chiefly of copper, with zinc, tin, lead, or silver, the percentage of copper varying from 70 to 95. A proportion of about two parts copper to one part tin produced the well-known speculum metal; 3 copper to 1 tin gives a bell metal; 5 copper to 1 tin produces the tam-tam or Chinese gong; 8 copper to 1 tin is a bronze adapted for machinery bearings; while 16 copper to 1 tin is a soft metal which can be rolled and drawn. The dead-black patina of some Japanese and Chinese bronze (we may here mention that the former are in some cases wonderfully accurate in the refinement of detail) is due to the presence of lead. In Europe the composition of the bronze used for statuary and art pieces is from 33 to 43 kilograms of copper, 7 to 16 kilograms of zinc, and in some cases 250 to 500 grams of tin. The principal works in this country are cast with about 90 per cent. of copper to about 10 per cent. of tin. It is presumed that the famous shield of Achilles described by Homer was a bronze. Although not sure of that, we do know that the composition there given could produce a metal admirably adapted to the purpose.—*Iron Age.*

For paint to stick to zinc use the following wash: Chloride of copper, one part; nitrate of copper, one part; sal ammoniac, one part; water, sixty-four parts. This coat is left for twenty-four hours before applying to the paint.—*Exchange.*

A German contemporary gives a recipe for a paint for woodwork exposed to weather, which, it asserts, is proof against all ordinary influences, and is tolerably cheap. No oil is used, but for the first coat finely-ground zinc-white is rubbed up with lime water, and the object to be painted is covered with a good coat of the mixture. When this dries (which will be in two or three hours) a second coat is applied, composed of a solution of chloride of zinc in lime water. By the action of the chloride of zinc a smooth shining coat is formed, which is extremely durable, and it is stated that the paint may even be used instead of tar, to protect the ends of posts which have to be planted in the ground.

Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER.

CAR OR CARGO LOTS.

1¼ and thicker clear picks, Am. ins..	$30 00	@32 00
1¼ and thicker, three uppers, Am ins.		37 00
1¼ and thicker, pickings, Am ins.....		27 00
1 x 10 and 12 dressing and better.....	18 00	20 00
1 x 10 and 12 mill run.....	13 00	14 00
1 x 10 and 12 dressing.....	14 00	16 00
1 x 10 and 12 common	12 00	13 00
1 x 10 and 12 spruce culls.....	10 00	11 00
1 x 10 and 12 maple culls.....		9 00
1 inch clear and picks.....	28 00	30 00
1 inch dressing and better.....	18 00	20 00
1 inch siding, mill run.....	14 00	16 00
1 inch siding, common.....	11 00	12 00
1 inch siding, ship culls.....	$10 00	$11 00
1 inch siding, mill culls.....	8 00	9 00
Cull scantling.....	8 00	9 00
1¼ and thicker cutting up plank.....	22 00	25 00
1 inch strips, 4 in. to 8 in. mill run....	14 00	15 00
1 inch strips, common.....	11 00	12 00
1¼ inch flooring.....	14 00	15 00
1½ inch flooring.....	14 00	16 00
XXX shingles, sawn.....	2 30	@2 35
XX shingles, sawn.....	1 30	1 35

Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada:

	Per Square.
Eastlake steel shingles (galvanized),	$5 25 to $5 75
Eastlake steel shingles (painted).. ..	3 75 4 00
Improved Broad Rib Roofing, (galvanized).....	5 00 5 75
Improved Broad Rib Roofing (painted)	3 50 4 00
North Western steel siding (painted)..	3 25 3 50
Manitoba steel siding (painted).....	3 25 3 50
Metallic Finished Brick.....	3 25 3 50
Tower or Mansard shingles, (galvanized).....	6 25
Tower or Mansard shingles (painted)..	4 50
Metallic Terra Cotta Tiles.....	7 00

Price of Copper shingles according to weight, and "Hayes" Patent Metallic Lathing according to quantity.

Canada Galvanizing & Steel Roofing Co.:

Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 26 W.G., per lb.....	5 cts.
Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 28 W.G.,	5¼
Corrugated Iron, painted, 26 W. G., per square.....	4 00
Corrugated Iron, painted, 28 W. G.,	3 50
Broad Rib Roofing, galvanized, per square.....	5 50
Broad Rib Roofing, painted..	4 00
Westlake shingles, steel, galvanized, per square.....	5 00
Westlake shingles, steel, painted	3 50
Standard shingles, "Walter's patent," galvanized, per square.....	5 50
Standard shingles, "Walter's patent," painted.....	4 00
Northwestern steel siding, patented, per square.....	3 50
Metallic Finish Brick, per square.. ..	3 25
Metallic Finish Clapboard, per square	3 50

YARD QUOTATIONS.

Mill cull boards and scantling.....		10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.....		13 00
Shipping cull boards, stocks.....		1 00
Hemlock cantling and joist up to 16 ft.	11 00	12 00
" " " 18 "	12 00	13 00
" " " 20 "	13 00	14 00
Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.....		14 00
" " 18 ft.....		15 00
" " 20 ft.....		17 00
" " 22 ft.....		19 00
" " 24 ft.....		21 00
" " 26 ft.....		23 00
" " 28 ft		25 00
" " 30 ft.....		27 00
" " 32 ft.....		27 00
" " 34 ft		29 50
" " 36 ft.....		31 00
" " 38 ft.....		33 00
" " 40 to 44 ft..		36 00
Cutting up planks, 1¼ and thicker, dry	25 00	26 00
" " board,	18 00	22 00
Cedar for block paving, per cord.... .		5 00
Cedar for Kerbing, 4 x 14, per M.....		14 00

B. M.

1¼ inch flooring, dressed, F. M.....	28 00	31 00
1¼ inch flooring rough, B. M..... ..	18 00	22 00
1¼ " dressed, F. M.... ..	25 00	28 00
" undressed, B. M...	18 00	19 00
" dressed.....	18 00	22 00
" undressed	12 00	15 00
Beaded sheeting, dressed	22 00	35 00
Clapboarding, dressed.....		12 00
XXX sawn shingles, per M, 16 in	2 65	2 75
Sawn lath.....	2 00	2 20
Red oak.....	30 00	40 00
White.....	35 00	45 00
Basswood, No. 1 and 2	18 00	20 00
Cherry, No. 1 and 2..	70 00	70 00
White ash, No. 1 and 2.....	25 00	25 00
Black ash, No. 1 and 2.....	20 00	30 00
Dressing stocks.....	16 00	22 00
Picks, American inspection.....		40 00
Three uppers, American inspection....		50 00

BRICK—₩ M

Common Walling.....		$7 50
Good Facing		9 00
Sewer.....	8 50	9 00

Pressed Brick

Plain brick, f. o. b. at Milton, per M...		$18 00
" " 2nd quality, per M.....		14 00
" " 3rd " "		10 00
Hard Building.....		8 00
Moulded and Ornamental, per 100.....	$3 to	10 00
Roof Tiles.....		74 00
Diamond locking tile.....		16 00
First quality, f.o.b. at Campbellville, per M		18 00
2nd " " " "		14 00
3rd " " " "		11 00
Ornamental, per 100.....	$3 to	10 00
Tiles.....		24 00

Stone.

Common Rubble, Per Toise, delivered		14 00
Large flat " " "		18 00
Foundation Blocks, " Cubic Foot..		50

Slate: Roofing (₩ *square*).

" red..... ..		18 00
" purple.....		9 00
" untading green.....		9 00
" black slate.....		7 75
Terra Cotta Tile, per sq		25 00
Ornamental Black Slate Roofing..		8 25

Sand:

Per Load of 1½ Cubic Yards.....		1 25

PAINTS. (*In oil,* ₩ *lb.*)

White lead, Can.....	6 25	6 50
" zinc, Can.....	6½	7 50
Red lead, Eng.....	5½	6½
" venetian.....	1 60	1 75
" vermillion.....	90	1 00
" Indian, Eng.....	10	12
Yellow ochre..	5	10
Yellow chrome.....	15	20
Green, chrome.	7	12
" Paris.....	25	40
Black, lamp.....	15	25
Blue, ultramarine.....	15	20
Oil, linseed, raw (*& Imp. gallon*).....	68	72
" " boiled	72	75
" " refined, "	78	85
Putty.....	2¼	2½
Whiting, dry.....	75	1 00
Paris white Eng., dry	90	1 25
Litharge, Am.....	6½	8
Sienna, burnt.....	15	20
Umber, "	8¼	12

CEMENT, LIME, etc.

Lime, Per Barrel of 2 bushels, Grey..		40
" " " White		55
Plaster, Calcined, New Brunswick..		2 00
" " Nova Scotia.....		2 00
Hair, Plasterers', per bag.....		1 00
Cement, Portland, per bbl.....	3 00	3 50
" Thorold, " .. .		1 50
" Queenston, "		1 50
" Napanee, "		1 50
" Hull, "		1 50

HARDWARE.

Cut Nails:

American Pattern, 1¾ inch, per keg...		3 90
" " 1½ to 1¾ inch, per keg		3 10
Canadian Pattern, 1¾ inch, per keg...		3 40
" " 1½ to 1¾ inch, per keg		2 95
" " 2 to 2¼ inch, . "		2 90
" " 2¼ to 2¾ inch, "		2 65
" " 3 inch and larger.....		2 40
Steel nails 10c. per keg extra.		
Finishing nails, 1 inch, per keg		5 40
" " 1¼ inch, "		4 65
" " 1½ " "		4 15
" " 1¾ " "		3 90
" " " and larger....		3 90