

will be flush here next winter, and our merchants, farmers and others will be able to wipe out a lot of their debts without regard to any Exemption Act, for people around here will pay their debts if they get half a chance.

**Common Soap.**

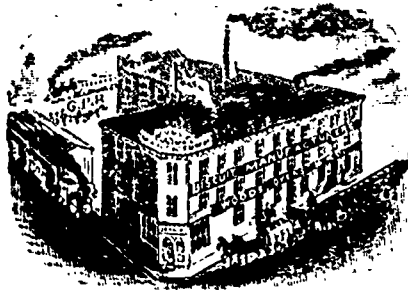
Manufacturers doing a large business have kettles holding several thousand pounds. The ingredients of ordinary family soap are primarily, grease or tallow, rosin, soda ash, and salt. They are boiled for a couple of days, and then allowed to cool for about three days. The soap is then pumped from near the bottom of the kettle—this is because the soap in the bottom cools more quickly than at the top—and into a crutcher, nearly like a mill churn, where it is mixed thoroughly. In this crutcher most of the adulteration commonly used in soap is introduced. Among the materials commonly used in soap are marble dust, glucose, sal soda, which is not used so much to cheapen the soap as to improve its appearance, flour and starch. From the crutchers the soap is run into boxes called frames, and is cut into bars when it becomes hard. It takes about two weeks from the time the material is put in the kettle, to the time the bars are placed in boxes ready for market. One-third of the weight of a bar of soap when boxed is water. This will dry out in course of time, leaving a three pound bar weighing only two pounds. Rosin is used in almost all soap, but is absolutely without use except to make the cost less to the manufacturers. This is also true of all the ingredients in soap except the fatty substance and the ash. Yet the wastefulness of the persons who do washing makes it an absolute saving to the consumer to have three quarters of it adulteration. —*Laundry Gazette.*

**General Notes.**

A diamond field in Australia is being worked on a paying basis. The yield is about one carat to a load of wash, and this is sufficient to make big profits. The company also has the prospect of occasionally finding a big stone which would greatly increase its dividends. Thus far no large stones have been found, but in the African field there is seldom more than one large diamond in ten thousand. It costs about sixty cents to work a load of wash dirt, and if a single carat is found the net profit amounts to over four dollars.

One of the curiosities of the present day, found among the pines of Wisconsin, was discovered near Knowlton a few weeks ago. It was in the form of a petrified squirrel, and was taken from the heart of a tree by some woodsmen. It was of a brownish color as hard as a rock, and was "as natural as life," even to the kink in its long, bushy tail. How the little animal found its way into the heart of the tree is a mystery, but it is supposed that in years, or perhaps centuries gone by, it became petrified. The curiosity was carefully packed and sent by William Mulhollen, its owner, to President Cleveland, from whom a personal letter of thanks was received last week to the sender, and saying it would be carefully preserved and placed in the public museum at Washington.

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