

\$5,000. Ald. D. D. Wood has the contract for masonry, and George Mitchell for the carpenter work

JOINERY NOTES.

After many unsuccessful experiments and trials an alloy of aluminium has been made with which nails, staples, and tacks can be made to compete with copper. Among other advantages claimed for the new material is that it is not affected by the weather and will not deteriorate. It is to be noticed that this quality should recommend the nails for use in laying roofs, lining tanks, etc., and also that, as the alloy is non-corrosive and non-poisonous, the new nails ought to find favor among makers of refrigerators and other articles used for food storage. When the difference in point number and weight is taken into consideration, it is seen that aluminium nails are about 2d a pound cheaper than copper nails. It is not intended to put them in competition with ordinary steel nails.

Of all the trials and vexations that beset the young workman there are none more annoying than the tendency of wood to warp. Perhaps the wood is flat enough when it leaves the dealer, but when required for use it is found as often as not twisted out of all shape. It should not, however, be a difficult matter to cure this. If the wood is in a large piece the convex, or hollow, side should be steamed or moistened a little, and then laid upon a dry floor, holding it down with a smooth, flat board, upon which weights are placed. When quite dry it will be found to have regained its original shape. If the wood is in small piece it can be easily straightened by gently steaming the convex side over a tea-kettle, and then hold-

ing the other side toward the heat until it becomes straight, when it can be left in a press or under weights for a few hours. Almost any warped woods will yield under this treatment.

The employment of alkaline manganates for imparting to light woods in furniture and floors an attractive, uniform and durable walnut brown, has been highly recommended. The action depends upon the decomposition of salt in the pores of the wood, with the separation in them of very finely-divided brown hydrate peroxide of manganese, and an addition of magnesium sulphate to the solution is found to hasten the reaction. In practice the following method is said to be successful. Equal parts of man-

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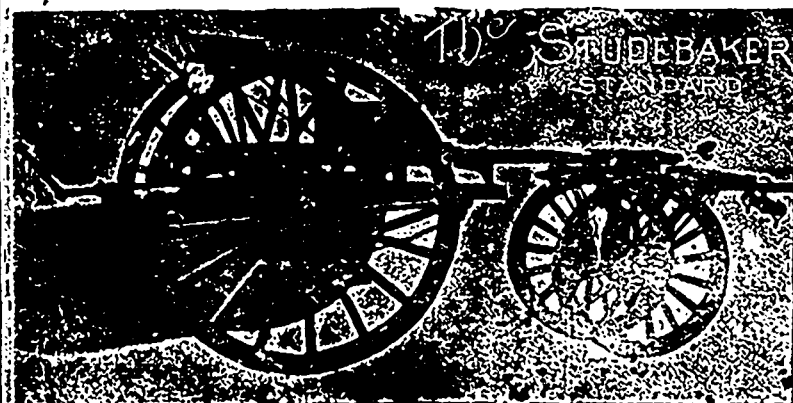
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