

most of the course there could only be seen a rushing, dashing object, enveloped by the light, new snow that had just fallen. The speed that was made down the last plunge can scarcely be imagined, and as the toboggan passed on to the plain it was fairly leaping into the air. With a little improvement this new track will be all that can be desired, and can justly be claimed as the grandest in all the country.—*Pilot, Colorado.*

MARL.

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MARL is plentiful in Ontario, but from inquiries lately made as to its nature and value, a few facts concerning it may be of interest.

It is frequently found below deposits of muck or humus, in swamps and low lands, sometimes quite near to the surface. It is then of a slate or bluish white color, wet and spongy, darkened a little on top from the overlying dark soil. Upon exposure to the air it dries to a white crumbly mass, light in weight, and showing its origin in the shells of various sizes with which it is filled. Of such a nature is No. 4 of the table given herewith, which was dug up on the Experimental Farm, Guelph.

In some localities the marl bed is found exposed, high and dry, ready for immediate application to land. When found lying low and soaked with water, it should be dug out and exposed to the weather. The fall is the best time for excavating. Let it lie in heaps; in the spring it will be found thoroughly pulverized by the winter's frost.

To distinguish marl from clay, pour upon it a small quantity of any acid, and if it be marl it will effervesce. To test its value quickly, place a small lump in an earthen dish and pour upon it a little hydrochloric acid; the less residue undissolved the better the sample of marl. The effervescence is caused by the setting free of carbonic acid gas from the carbonate of lime,