

DIAMOND FIELDS.

THE PROCESS OF MINING AS CONDUCTED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Result of a Boer Girl's Discovery—Steady Fall in the Price of Diamonds—From \$15 Down to \$3.75.

(Chicago Times.)

A letter in the London Times from the diamond fields gives us some interesting particulars of the business. The discovery of these shining gems reminds one of the Indian in Brazil who first found one of them in the roots of a shrub he had pulled up and took it home as a plaything for his children. A Boer girl in 1867 found the first diamond, also in the roots of a tree, and human nature having its weak side in that rude section of the world as well as in London, Paris and New York, she adorned herself with it and made a sensation among the kraals of Boer society. It did not take long for the news to spread. The great grassy plain where the gem was found was soon covered with prospectors, armed with picks and spades, every man for himself.

After the yellow surface soil had been exhausted a blue soil was found which was still richer in diamonds. This blue soil was observed to exist in large circular deposits which geology soon defined as the remnants of mud volcanoes. A regular community began to center about the locality, and the land-owners, private individuals, corporations, and even governments, commenced squabbling over the claims, which at last necessitated the organization of companies for mutual defense, and now the whole diamond area is worked by these companies with elaborate machinery. The manner of the working is thus described:

"Round each great basin or quarry is a circle of steam engines working wire-rope lifts up and down to the bottom of the quarry; and round the brink run locomotives and trains of trucks whisking the 'blue' soil brought up away to be spread out like so much manure over the field, and to be taken thence, when duly disintegrated by the weather, broken up by hand, and harrowed and rolled, to the washing places where it is all sent by hydraulic action through a series of rotary sieves and pulsators on the principle of, in successive mechanical operations, washing away all dirt that is lighter than diamonds.

"The washings are so arranged that the outfall of each portion is graduated in size, and falls on a series of sorting tables. At these stand five or six of the principal men—owners and directors of companies among them—spreading out the clean washed stuff graduated from the size of pebbles to that of sand; and the visitor may stand by in wonder to see the searcher at the one end pick out his eight or ten 'big stones' per hour, or assist the searcher at the other busily sorting out of the sand innumerable white specks of diamonds. The day's work, tumbled into small snuff-boxes, while frequently reach a local value of 1,000 pounds sterling.

"None can fail to be struck on looking into one of these great mines or quarries that the whole of that great mass of earth and rock has been dug out, pulverized and searched for the diamonds it contains. One can look into a quarry of sand or stone and see the rocks themselves cut down and carted away for use; but in these quarries the soil and the rock are cut out and dug out—and what for? Simply that out of every 100 tons raised out of the quarry an ounce weight of diamonds may be secured."

The figures attending these operations are interesting. To dig out big stones per hour, or assist the searcher at the other busily sorting out of the sand innumerable white specks of diamonds. The day's work, tumbled into small snuff-boxes, while frequently reach a local value of 1,000 pounds sterling.

How Continents Rise and Fall.

(Boston Journal of Commerce.)

It is known that the Atlantic coast between Cape Hatteras and Cape Cod has been sinking steadily for centuries, and it is within the bounds of probability that before 2,000 years have elapsed the cities of New York and Brooklyn may be under water. When the Dutch colonized Manhattan Island 200 years ago, the Indians told them that in the time of their grandfathers that it was possible to cross Hell Gate dry shod from one bank to the other. Professor Cuyot estimated that the lowering of the Atlantic coast was twenty-two and one-half inches every century. At the same time it is certain that the greater portion of the American continent is rising, while the continent of Australia is certainly sinking.

How Conkling Saw Chicago.

(Terre Oe "urbstone" crayons.)

Ex-Senator Conkling, when he had concluded the business that brought him to Chicago, did a thing that few other men would have thought of doing. It was a rainy, dismal day, but he started out alone and afoot to see Chicago. He spent three or four hours on the streets, taking in whatever interested him, and being his own way about the whole business. He returned to his hotel in great spirits, and said to me that he had never seen Chicago so much to his satisfaction before.

Hard to Remember.

(Life.)

Embarrassed young man (trying hard to say something)—I think, Miss Belmonts, that I have had the pleasure of meeting you before.

Miss Belmonts—It is possible, but I do not remember it.

E. Y. M.—Was it not at Mount Pleasant?

Miss B.—I have never been there.

E. Y. M.—Neither have I.

Cause of a Mill Explosion.

(Chicago Herald.)

In a German grist mill recently a sack of flour fell down stairs, opened, and scattering the contents in a burning gas same, set fire to the dust, causing an explosion which lifted a part of the roof of the mill and broke almost all the windows.

The Quinine Habit.

On the southern front of the White House at Washington, quinine is the principal food of those on night duty, and the watchmen learn to like it as a daily tonic.

The French call love the "toothache of the heart."

TWO.

(Helen M. Winslow.)

Two streamlets, I know, whose head waters clear Intermingle their murmuring song; But one seeks the north, and the other flows south. By a roundabout course and along, And the streams which at first blended every low strain Flowing ever unto the deep sea, Leave constantly wider the distance between.—As between you, love, and me.

Two hearts I once know, who dwelt side by side And whose thoughts intertwined with each other; But differing aims lead by separate paths And each finds their joy in another. And the tw, which at first close together were bound, Drift apart on the world's changing sea— And the distance grows wider as the years roll by.—As between you, love, and me.

A Difficult Catch.

(Sporting Life.)

Appropos of the attempt of a number of ball players to catch a ball dropped from the top of the Washington monument, and the opinions expressed as to the ability of any one to accomplish the feat, the question arises if any of them has an idea of the velocity acquired by a ball dropped from a height of 550 feet by the time it strikes the ground.

The experiment was tried by Phil Hines, Sam Trott, Charlie Snyder, Phil Baker, and others, but none succeeded in holding it.

Now the fact is that a ball so dropped has a velocity of 195 feet per second when it strikes the ground! This velocity can be better comprehended by comparing it with a batted ball.

The longest hit which the writer has any knowledge of was made by George Wright at Indianapolis, when the ball struck the ground a few inches over 300 yards. The ball, in this instance, was hit into the air at an angle of about 45 degrees, the most favorable angle for a long hit.

Without giving the formula, I will state that, as near as can be calculated, the angle and the distance being given, the initial velocity of the ball in this case is found to be about 100 feet per second.

Allowing the same ball to have been hit in the same direction, at the same angle with sufficient force to give it the same velocity at the starting point that it acquires in falling from the monument top, it would have gone 344 yards.

Would any of the players like to take hold of a line hit, of the same force, at short field?

The "Torpedo Guide."

(Es on a manuscript.)

A machine has been patented which promises to render the torpedo still more effective. Hitherto there has always been a great element of uncertainty in the action of marine explosives, and not infrequently they have completely failed the calculation of those who have employed them. The torpedo has, indeed, sometimes proved more destructive to those who used it than to the enemy against whom it was directed. The new machine is called the "torpedo guide," and it is claimed that it can control, with absolute certainty, the action of the explosive at a distance of three miles.

As the torpedo is launched on its errand of destruction, a thin insulated wire is paid out, and as the wire immediately sinks, communication cannot be destroyed by the enemy. The operator controls the movements of the torpedo by transmitting a negative or positive current of electricity, and the "guide" is so constructed that the attack can be directed to any given point with mathematical precision. Even if the ship from which the torpedo proceeded were moving in one direction, and the vessel attacked in another, the torpedo could still be employed, it is stated, with deadly certainty.

Wigs for Statues.

(Foreign Letter.)

It is a very curious circumstance that some Roman statues were fitted with movable marble wigs, but for what reason is not clear, unless the fastidious matrons of antiquity desired to have the hair on their sculptured portraits always arranged in the latest fashion. The statue of Lucilla, wife of the Emperor Lucius Verus, in the museum of the capitol at Rome, has a wig of black marble that can be taken off, and in the Vatican a Venus is believed to represent Julia Soemias, the mother of the Emperor Elagabalus, with hair that may be removed. There was also a bald bust of a woman, with marble wig attached in the palace of Sans Souci at Potsdam.

A New Tanning Agent.

(London G. 24th.)

The statement is made that a tanner at Tempe, A. T., two or three years ago discovered a plant which carried a large proportion of tannin, and which, when used in the manufacture of leather, gave extra weight to the product. The plant is of annual growth, indigenous to the deserts and dry uplands, and is known to the Mexicans and Indians as "gonagra." It has a root somewhat longer and more scraggy than the cultivated beet, though resembling it in appearance.

—JAMES VICK STRAWBERRIES.—This new and valuable berry originated with Samuel Miller of Bluff on, Montgomery county, Missouri. As a seedling it attracted attention by the unusual glossiness and vigor of its foliage, before it fruited, and this vigor and strength of growth has to a still greater degree appeared in its enormous bearing qualities.

The berries are nearly round, of uniformly large size, deep scarlet and of excellent flavor. In respect to its keeping qualities, it is among strawberries what the Hansell and Souhegan are among raspberries. Its fruits have been known to stand on the vines a week after becoming ripe, without softening or rotting. It is not only a stand-by for family use but for a market berry it stands pre-eminently at the head. The originator of this berry is well known as a horticulturist, having originated the Martha Grape and other fruits of great value. He has never sent out a new variety which has not taken its place in the front rank and held it, and the fact that he has allowed the James Vick to come before the public as one of his seedlings is of itself evidence of its excellence.

The valuable qualities of this new strawberry may be summed up as follows: 1st, Fine quality of fruit, great vigor and hermaphrodite (or perfect) blossoms; 2d, Color, form and firmness of berry; 3rd, Ability to remain on the vines a long time without injury; 4th, Ability to stand drought; 5th, Uniformity of size of fruit, which averages large; 6th, The rapidity with which it forms new sets; 7th, The glossy and beautiful appearance of the foliage, retaining its verdure until very late in the fall, making it one of the finest border plants for flower beds that can be obtained; 8th, Excellent productive-ness; all these qualities uniting to make it the most valuable market berry which has ever been produced.

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Is seldom injured by surreptitious rivalry. Imitators of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters have not only lost money by attempting underhand competition with it, but have actually contributed to enhance the estimation in which the genuine medicine is held. The public at large has for many years been acquainted with the ear marks that distinguish the real from the spurious, and cannot be persuaded that other articles sold in somewhat similar guise are equally good. Fever and ague, constipation, dyspepsia and liver complaint are not curable by cheap local bitters, eye openers and tonics, but the fact is too well proven and too generally known to admit of conscientious dispute for these and other maladies the great household medicine is a safe and thorough remedy. Not only in the United States, but in Mexico, South America and the West Indies, its merits are widely recognized and its reputation is too firmly established to be shaken.

7-22-15.

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ESTATE NOTICE—Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the estate of George Lutz, of Walker township, dec'd, have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to said estate, are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims will present them duly authenticated for settlement.

ELIZABETH LUTZ, Administratrix.

COMPARATIVE WORTH OF BAKING POWDERS.

Table listing various baking powder brands and their comparative worth. Brands include ROYAL (Absolutely Pure), GRANT'S (Alum Powder), RUMFORD'S (when fresh), HANFORD'S (when fresh), REDHEAD'S, CHARM (Alum Powder), AMAZON (Alum Powder), CLEVELAND'S (short wt. doz.), PIONEER (San Francisco), CZAR, DR. PRICE'S, SNOW FLAKE (Gross's), LEWIS', PEARL (Andrews & Co.), HECKER'S, GILLET'S, ANDREWS & CO. (Regal), BULK (Powder sold loose), and RUMFORD'S (when not fresh).

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT CHEMISTS

As to Purity and Wholesomeness of the Royal Baking Powder.

"I have tested a package of Royal Baking Powder, which I purchased in the open market, and find it composed of pure and wholesome ingredients. It is a cream of tartar powder of a high degree of merit, and does not contain either alum or phosphates, or other injurious substances." E. G. LOVE, Ph.D.

"It is a scientific fact that the Royal Baking Powder is absolutely pure." H. A. MOTT, Ph.D.

"I have examined a package of Royal Baking Powder, purchased by myself in the market. I find it entirely free from alum, terra alba, or any other injurious substance." HENRY MORTON, Ph.D., President of Stevens Institute of Technology.

"I have analyzed a package of Royal Baking Powder. The materials of which it is composed are pure and wholesome." S. DANE HAYES, State Assayer, Mass.

The Royal Baking Powder received the highest award over all competitors at the Vienna World's Exposition, 1873; at the Centennial, Philadelphia, 1876; at the American Institute, New York, and at State Fairs throughout the country. No other article of human food has ever received such high, emphatic, and universal endorsement from eminent chemists, physicians, scientists, and Boards of Health all over the world.

NOTE—The above DIAGRAM illustrates the comparative worth of various Baking Powders, as shown by Chemical Analysis and experiments made by Prof. Schedler. A pound can of each powder was taken, the total leavening power or volume in each can calculated, the result being as indicated. This practical test for worth by Prof. Schedler only proves what every observant consumer of the Royal Baking Powder knows by practical experience, that while it costs a few cents per pound more than ordinary kinds, it is far more economical, and, besides, affords the advantage of better work. A single trial of the Royal Baking Powder will convince any fair minded person of these facts.

* While the diagram shows some of the alum powders to be of a higher degree of strength than other powders ranked below them, it is not to be taken as indicating that they have any value. All alum powders, no matter how high their strength, are to be avoided as dangerous.

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Rockford, Ill., Jan. 1880.

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BY HOSMER P. HULLAND, Sec.

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I fully guarantee every Watch for two years.

FRANK P. BLAIR,

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Dighton, Jan. 27, 1882.

The Rockford watch purchased Feb. 1879, has performed better than any Watch I ever had. Have carried it every day and at no time has it been irregular, or in the least unreliable. I cheerfully recommend the Rockford Watch.

HORACE B. HORTON,

at Dighton Furnace Co.

TAUNTON, Sept. 18, 1881.

The Rockford Watch runs very accurately; better than any watch I ever owned, and I have had one that cost \$150. Can recommend the Rockford Watch to everybody who wishes a fine timekeeper.

S. P. HUBBARD, M. D.

This is to certify that the Rockford Watch bought Feb. 22, 1879, has run very well the past year. Having set it only twice during that time, its only variation being three minutes. It has run very much better than I ever anticipated. It was not adjusted and only cost \$20.

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5-7-15

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