

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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THE DALLES OREGON

ALMOST FORGOTTEN.

The Mysterious Relic of a Prehistoric People.
On the shores of Brittany there is a mysterious relic of forgotten ages which escapes the attention of most travelers. Far out in the Moriban sea—across which legend tells us Arthur sailed with his knights in pursuit of the dragon—rises a little island. It can be reached in a boat from the coast only in a calm sea. A Breton shepherd has a solitary hut upon it and feeds a few sheep.

Crossing the grassy slope off which they browse, the traveler finds himself at the foot of the hill, in the face of which has been excavated a great tunnel or cave, floored, walled and roofed by huge flat rocks.

Some archaeologists say that this cavern was the work of the worshippers of the serpent god of Hra—a race that has passed into oblivion.

The learned traveler knows only that the mysterious cavern antedates all history; that the rocks of which it is built came from the mainland, a distance of more than one hundred miles inland. No rocks like them make any part of the geological formation of the island.

Even with our modern engineering knowledge and machinery it would require vast labor and skill to bring these enormous blocks of stone and place them so securely as to defy the wear and friction of ages.

How were they brought here by men who had, perhaps, few mechanical appliances—nothing but the strength of their bodies and their faith in a strange god?

The race who built the temple are dust. Even their names ages ago perished from the earth. Their religion is vanished. These stones are the monuments of their indomitable resolution. That defies the flight of years.

AFRICAN COIFFURES.

Styles That Would Hardly Find Favor in This Country.

A recent visitor to Samoa tells of a famous village beauty in that remote region whose headpiece is thus described: "Round her forehead was a band of small pieces of nautilus shell; above towered a mass of human hair that had been bleached for months in a marsh, with scraps of looking-glass arranged in front, the whole surmounted with a trail of red hummingbirds' feathers."

Dr. Drummond, in his book of African travel, makes mention of the chief's daughter, whose hair, heavily greased with ground-nut oil, was made up into small-sized balls, like black currants, and then divided into patterns—diamonds, circles, and parterres, designed with the skill of a landscape gardener. Both these "arrangements" would, in the eyes of civilized artists and connoisseurs, be probably regarded as savage monstrosities, but it is to be doubted whether they are not utterly surpassed by the goldfish and canary arrangement, by a kingfisher's wing crowned with red shimmering glass and sham jewels, both in tawdry insolence and depravity of taste. What is called "barbarous" if found among savages may, after all, be the very height of fashion in Mayfair, though the cheap finery of the Samoan or African belle is marked neither by cruelty to the victim nor by gain to the artist.

The "Fabian" Policy.

The policy of wearing out the enemy in war by delays, misleading movements, feints of attacks, etc., while avoiding open battle, is called the "Fabian policy," from the following circumstance: Fabius Maximus was a Roman general in the second Punic war. Having been appointed just after the Roman army had suffered severe defeat at Lake Trasymene, he perceived that his disheartened troops and bands of raw recruits could not oppose successfully a trained army flushed with victory and led by their great commander, Hannibal. He therefore avoided pitched battles, moved his camp from highland to highland, and tired out the enemy with marches and countermarches. This he continued until thwarted in his calculations by the impatience of the Roman senate.

Specimen Cases.

S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wis., was troubled with neuralgia and rheumatism, his stomach was disordered, his liver was affected to an alarming degree, appetite fell away, and he was terribly reduced in flesh and strength. Three bottles of Electric Bitters cured him.

Edward Shepherd, Harrisburg, Ill., had a running sore on his leg of eight years' standing. Used three bottles of Electric Bitters and seven boxes of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and his leg is sound and well. John Speaker, Catawba, O., had five large fever sores on his leg, doctors said he was incurable. One bottle Electric Bitters and one box Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him entirely. Sold by Snipes & Kinsley.

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Promptly and permanently cures all forms of Nervous Debility, Exhaustion, Spasmodic, Impotency and all effects of Abuse or Excess. Has been prescribed over 25 years in thousands of cases; is the only Reliable and Safe medicine known. Ask Druggist for Wood's Phosphodine; if he offers some worthless medicine in place of this, leave his dishonest store, inclose price in letter, and we will send by return mail. Price, one package, \$1.10; six, \$5. One will please, six will cure. Pamphlet in plain sealed envelope, 2 cents postage.

Address: The Wood Chemical Co., 121 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Mich. Sold in The Dalles by Snipes & Kinsley.

VALUE OF DYNAMITE.

The Many Useful Purposes Which It Serves.

Harmless and Safe to Handle if Precautions Are Taken—Both Heat and Percussion Needed to Explode It—Methods of Manufacture.

Dynamite is a name that, to the majority of people, is synonymous with murder, ruin and anarchy. In reality it is a very safe and useful commodity when properly handled, and will not explode except under peculiar conditions. When a match is applied it will merely burn and sizzle as the ordinary red fire does, says the Providence Journal, and ninety-nine times out of a hundred it may be thrown from the top of a building without doing any harm. To explode the substance there must be the heat and concussion combined, and this can be obtained only by the use of the dynamite cap or fulminate of mercury, discharged either by a lighted fuse or by the passage of an electric current.

The explosive substance itself is a mass of sawdust or lamp black soaked in nitro-glycerine. Either of these two preparations is called dynamite. There is another, the latest explosive yet invented, which is obtained by mixing the nitro-glycerine with gelatine, or any suitable glutinous substance. This is called forcite, and has the double advantage over dynamite of being safe to handle and more effective in its working. The dynamite is made up in sticks or cartridges, generally of half a pound weight, and held in hollow paper cylinders eight inches long and one and a quarter inches in diameter.

For shipment these sticks are put up first in ten-pound packages, and then five of these packages are placed in a strong wooden case, and in that bulk they are sent out from the factories to the selling agents. It is not brought here by train, and neither is ordinary gunpowder, for that matter, because none of the railroads which run freight lines in Providence will carry any kind of explosives. But the dynamite is brought as far as Acton, Mass., in the freight cars, and then carried from there in four-horse teams. It takes the team a day and a half to make the trip, and the selling parties pay the cartage. Of course there is more or less of the stuff smuggled in here by train; sometimes it comes marked as soap or some equally harmless commodity, and the freight handlers throw it around accordingly, and very frequently workmen who are going a short distance by train out of town to do some blasting take enough with them in a valise to cause a full-fledged modern railroad horror if it should go off.

In the retail stores, where the dynamite is for sale, there is no unusual precaution taken in the storing of it. It is kept under the counter or on the shelves, very much the same as common salt is; only the dealer is very careful to keep his dynamite cartridges at one end of the store and the dynamite caps at the other. The latter is the more dangerous of the two, and it is when they are brought together that dynamite is a most excellent thing to keep away from. It is the cap and the cartridge that are so often confounded in the accounts of explosions, etc. The prevailing idea about Anarchist Ling's death is that he exploded a cartridge in his mouth; instead it was the much smaller but just as deadly cap.

The explosive retails for anywhere from twenty-five to sixty cents a pound, according to the percentage of nitro-glycerine with the sawdust or lampblack. The uses to which the dynamite is put in everyday work on the farms, ledges and highways are many, for simple rock blasting, removing bowlders, breaking up iron, clearing tree stumps and shattering ice and frozen ground. It has been frequently used at Benedict pond, where its explosion under water, after a drowning accident, has brought to the surface some body that could not be secured with the dragging irons.

If the charge is to be used under water or in breaking up ice the cap has to be made water-tight where the fuse enters before it is inserted in the cartridge by filling in the opening with tar or some kind of grease. Water does not injure the dynamite, but it must be kept from the fulminate. The powder is injured, however, and its power greatly diminished by a low temperature. High explosives freeze at a temperature of forty degrees to forty-three degrees, Fahrenheit, and when in this condition will explode, if at all, with but little effect.

So to use them in cold weather the workmen have some contrivance for warming the cartridge, either by leaving it in an iron kettle which is immersed in a larger one containing hot water, or by burying it in sand heated to a temperature of seventy degrees. Carelessness in this part of the work has on several occasions resulted in a premature explosion and accident, for while both concussion and heat are generally necessary to produce any result, either one of the two agents alone may do so, as was the case in the recent catastrophe at Santander.

There is one rule of safety that is always heeded in blasting experiments. If the charge fails to explode after the fuse has been lighted or the current turned on the operator will never dig it out to find the reason why—it is too apt to act like the firecracker that the small boy picks up after he thinks it has gone off, or like the toy pistol that isn't loaded. When the first attempt is unsuccessful, a second charge is placed in close proximity to the first, and when that goes they both go.

City Warrants.

All those holding city warrants of date prior to September 1st, 1891, will be paid on presentation at my office. Interest on same ceases after this date.
I. I. BURGET,
City Treasurer.
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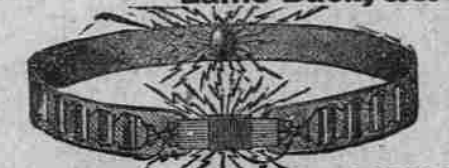
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