

THE BLACK DIAMOND

It is One of the Curiosities of the Mineral Kingdom.

A PUZZLE TO SCIENTISTS.

Nature Has In Some Peculiar Way Produced This Rare Form of Carbon and Then Thrown Away the Secret of the Process—Found Only In Brazil.

The term "black diamonds" is sometimes jokingly applied to ordinary coal which we burn in our furnaces, but the real "black diamonds" of commerce are among the most unique mineral products of the world, and they serve a purpose in the industrial world that makes them of great value. The black diamonds are pure carbon and yet in no outward appearance resemble the diamonds which we are accustomed to wear as ornaments. They are slightly harder than the crystal of gem diamonds and, in fact, about the hardest substance known.

Black diamonds, or carbons, are among the greatest curiosities of the mineral kingdom. They are without crystalline form and are found in irregular pieces, ranging in size from half a carat up to three, four and five hundred carats. They are dark gray, black or brownish in color and opaque. The real diamond of the jewelry trade is also pure carbon, but translucent and crystalline in form. Two objects so alike in composition could not be found so opposite in appearance as these two forms of carbon.

Another peculiar thing about the black diamonds is that they are found only in one locality in the world. They come from a very small section of Brazil not more than 225 miles square in area. Outside of this limited territory no pure black diamonds have ever been found.

What peculiar freak of nature caused the deposition of the black diamonds in this section of the world and nowhere else is one of the mysteries which science has failed to explain. Some of them has been found in the great Kimberley diamond regions, where the crystal form of diamonds have for so long been mined.

The whole origin of the black diamond is, therefore, a scientific enigma. Naturally the question is raised, "Of what use is a black diamond?" No one would care to wear one of these diamonds, which resembles a piece of coal more than a real diamond, and so far no one has popularized the black gems as the black pearl has been. Nevertheless the black diamonds serve a most important and useful function in the industrial world.

This pure black carbon is not only harder than the real diamond, but tougher and not so brittle as the gem. Consequently it is of great value for many mechanical purposes and particularly for boring with diamond drills in diamond drilling the tips of the drills are studded with carbon, or black diamonds, and when the bores are deep the pressure is so great that the gem diamonds would be crushed in the process. But the carbon resists this continued pressure and slowly cuts down into the rocks.

In diamond drill work the carbon is set in circular pieces of soft steel or iron, called bits, and these bits are attached to tubing. Armed with these black diamond teeth, the drills push their way down under severe pressure to a depth of five and six thousand feet, cutting through the hardest kind of rock. Some black diamonds are much harder than others, and there is no way to determine by the color the difference in the degree of toughness.

Black diamonds or pure carbon are not by any means cheap, and the owners of the mines in Brazil where they are gathered are making a good thing out of their monopoly. There is no known substance that can take the place of carbon in drills in boring for gold, silver, copper and other mineral deposits. Before the black diamonds of Brazil were discovered it was impossible to make borings.

When the carbon was first introduced in our industries it was used in diamond saws for cutting stones, marble and similar substances. Then the price advanced so that the carbon was found too costly for such use, and borings were substituted for stone cutting. But to really an imperfect crystal or gem diamond, but it is too brittle for use in drills. Consequently borings have taken the place of black diamonds for stone cutting, and the latter have been restricted almost entirely to diamond drilling purposes.

The average size of black diamonds used in the drills ranges from two to five carats, but the larger specimens give much better results. They cost more, but they last longer. Consequently there is a greater demand for the larger pieces of pure carbon, and the price is sometimes run up to premium figures for unusual specimens.

The fear that the supply of black diamonds may some day give out and paralyze the diamond drilling industry has stimulated prospectors to systematic search for new deposits, but so far they have not been successful. On the other hand, scientists have been making a close study of the chemical conditions which have produced the black diamonds, but their manufacture is apparently about as difficult as the making of the gem diamonds. It is possible under certain conditions to make either, but not in sizes sufficient to be of any commercial value. Nature in some peculiar way has made these rare products and then thrown the secret of the process away. If any man can ever unlock or find that secret he may cause a panic in the diamond trade.—Scientific American.

MUSICAL MISERY.

When Bagpipes Squeak Out "The Star Spangled Banner."

"I wish," growled a man who made a tour of the British Isles, "that the British bandmasters would take a course of instruction in what constitutes the American national air. Band concerts are the rage all over England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales during the summer season, probably as a compliment to the tastes of Americans who are bringing away gold for their benefit, they present daily what is generally dubbed 'American national air'."

"The majority of these bandmasters think 'Dixie' is the national air, because they sagely observe it is the only one which Americans applaud. 'The Star Spangled Banner' is dismal and lugubrious enough under the best of circumstances, but to hear the Scotch bagpipes have a fling at it is indescribable misery. The man who wrote the 'Columbia' hymn would not know his own work as performed in Great Britain, and even the 'Kentucky Home' and other negro ballads get a touch between an Irish jig and a Scotch wail which robs the American visitor of any pleasure which he might experience in hearing songs from home. It may be that British, Scotch and Irish guests on this side of the water get as much discomfort in hearing 'Annie Laurie.' I hope they do, for it would establish a sort of international musical balance."—New York Press.

SLEEP SUPERSTITIONS.

How to Awaken at Any Hour You May Designate.

Sleep is the best cure for waking trouble. Hours for sleep: Nature gives five, Custom seven, Weariness takes nine, Laziness eleven.

If you wish to arise at a certain hour, before going to bed make with your right foot as many marks on the floor as the hour on which you wish to wake, then go to bed backward.

To insure happy dreams burn some hazelnuts and do the ashes up in a package, which you must place beneath your pillow. You will then dream sweetly.

If you wish ever to marry, never look under the bed.

If a person talks in his sleep, put his hand in a bowl of water and he will tell you all his secrets.

The Hindoos say it is bad luck to sleep with your head to the north, but sleeping with your head to the south promotes longevity.

It is considered by some nations dangerous to sleep while thirsty, for the soul leaves the body in search of water, and if the body awakened too quickly the soul might not have time to return to it, so the body would die.

In Germany the nightmare is believed to be a spectral being which places itself upon the breast of the sleeper, depriving him of the power of utterance or motion.—Philadelphia Press.

Parks of Australian Cities.

Australians, with a fine climate, believe in enjoying themselves, and there are plenty of facilities. Thus in Sydney there are parks and squares and public gardens with a total area of 4,335 acres. Sixteen miles from the city—a shilling excursion train fare—is the picturesque national park, containing 36,810 acres preserved in their natural state. A similar reserve called Kurin-gal Chase, comprising 35,300 acres of land, chiefly of densely wooded hills skirting for many miles around numerous tidal arms of Broken bay, is also held for the enjoyment of the public forever. Melbourne has no fewer than 5,400 acres of recreation grounds in or near the city. Adelaide is surrounded by a belt of park lands and has about 2,300 acres set apart for the public benefit. Nor are Perth and Hobart and Brisbane and some of the fine inland towns less well provided for.—Westminster Gazette.

Malay Race Not Dying Out.

There is a very common idea that the Malay is a race that is dying out, killed in its own country by the enterprise of Chinese, Tamils, Javanese (who, however, are kinsmen of the Malays) and Europeans. To those who come out east expecting to find a few miserable remains of a once powerful race, whose probable fate is that of the Australian aborigines, it comes as a revelation to find a sturdy, independent and courteous race, whose language runs from Suez to Australia and who, so far from dying out, are yearly becoming more numerous.—Java Times.

A Bad Start.

"Ever try this keep-a-smiling proposition?" "Tried it once, but with poor success. Unfortunately I started the experiment on a day that the boss felt grouchy."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

What Made Him Sick.

Teacher—Your little brother was all right when he left the house with you, and yet you say he's sick and won't be in school. The Kid—Sure! Didn't I give him the seegar wid me own hands?—Puck.

Stationary Youth.

Rich Father—My daughter is too young to get married. She is only eighteen. Impecunious Lover—I know, sir, but I have waited patiently for years, and she doesn't seem to get any older.

Early Intelligence.

Sunday School Teacher (finishing the narration)—And that is the story of Jonah and the whale. Johnny—Isn't it strange they knew what a Jonah was that long ago?

One Good Thing Always Follows Another

Our Annual Muslin Underwear Sale

Which Closes Saturday Night, January 8

has received the attention of hundreds of the ladies of McCook and neighboring town who have visited our store during this sale, securing Muslin Undergarment Values never before equalled in McCook.

WE URGE every lady who has not been in this week to come without fail before Saturday night and secure a share of these great values. You must see them to appreciate their cheapness.

Then Comes

Our Popular Twenty Percent Discount Sale

Beginning Monday, January 10, and Closing Saturday, January 15

This sale is looked forward to by every customer who is anxious to make every dollar count for the very most possible, for our reputation has been established—we do exactly as we advertise—and this sale means that

Everything in Every Department Throughout Our Entire Store Will be Sold at One-Fifth Less than the Regular Price

You are familiar with our usual low prices and our clean, up-to-date stock—figure for yourself what this discount means on reasonable and desirable Dry Goods—then be on hand next week and get your share.

Even Greater Reductions in Our Ready-to-Wear Department

During this sale week our entire stock of COATS, SUITS AND DRESSES will go at the following great reductions:



One \$35 Russian Poney Coat ..	\$27.75
One \$35 Black Fur Coat	25.75
One \$25 Black Caracul Coat ..	15.75
Twenty Percent Discount on Every Fur Scarf and Muff in Our Stock.	
One \$35.00 Dress	\$24.75
All 25.00 Dresses	16.75
" 20.00 "	14.75
" 17.50 "	12.75
" 15.00 "	11.75
" 12.50 "	9.75
" 10.00 "	7.75

Any \$35.00 Coat or Suit	\$28.75
" 30.00 "	23.75
" 25.00 "	18.75
" 20.00 "	15.75
" 15.00 "	11.75
" 12.50 "	9.75
" 10.00 "	7.75
" 7.50 Coat	5.90
" 6.00 "	4.90
" 5.00 "	3.90
Cheaper ones	2.50
"	2.25



Final Clean-Up of All Our Millinery Goods

In order to clean our stock of Fall and Winter Millinery and make room for early shipments of Spring Goods, we offer during this sale week:

\$4.00, \$5.00 and \$6.00 Trimmed Hats for ...	\$ 1.50 each
\$8.00, \$10.00 and \$12.00 Trimmed Hats for ...	5.00 "
\$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00 Trimmed Hats for ...	10.00 "

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.



All Ribbons, Malines, Chiffons, Feathers and Wings at One-Half Off

All Ostrich Plumes at One-Third Off

This stock is all clean, perfect and seasonable merchandise which we fully guarantee and strongly recommend to every lady who wishes anything in the millinery line.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.

Do your trading at our store every day next week.

H. C. CLAPP

EXCLUSIVE DRY GOODS, MILLINERY, LADIES' FURNISHINGS

Phone 56 - 222 Main avenue - McCook

On everything you buy you will receive 1-5 off.

MINOR ITEMS OF NEWS

McConnell for drugs.
McCook Milling Co. 91 Patent is the best.
Be sure and try McCook flour, and get the best.
McMillen's Little Liver Granules will do you good.
If you want a good loaf of bread, try Anchor Patent.
Remember the sale of millinery at 114 east B street.
The "Juniors" tripped the light fantastic, New Year eve, in the Monte Cristo hall.
The Monte Cristo hall was the scene of quite a brilliant New Year dance, on the evening of the 1st.
"Mercy and Relief" is the W.C.T.U. topic for January 14th, with Mrs. Mc Bride as hostess and Mrs. Wimer as leader.
Note that the meetings of the Ladies' Circle have been changed to 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, instead of the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, as formerly.

McConnell fills prescriptions.

Did some one cough? Tell him about McConnell's Balsam.
While they last, astonishing bargains in millinery at 114 east B street—rear of DeGroff's store.
Have you written on any of the new style stationery?
L. W. McCONNELL, Druggist.
Mrs. Bradford, of C. L. DeGroff & Co.'s Ready-to-Wear department, has returned from her holiday absence in Denver and resumed work in that department, and is ready to receive dress-making orders for prompt delivery.
Lessons in Water Color Painting.
Mrs. Lottie Brewer has returned from her Chicago study in water color work and will give lessons in painting. You of course have noticed her beautiful exhibits in DeGroff's and The Model shoe store.
It's Your Own Fault
If your bread isn't the best ever—if you don't buy the famous Loomis high patent at the McCook Flour and Feed Store, G. F. Smith, proprietor.

Real Estate Fillings.

Fred Graham to George M Thomas, wd to 13 in 13, Danbury 500 00
Joseph L Stitt et ux to William M Crouse, wd to s hf nw qr, 3, 4, in 4-2-27 7500 00
Lincoln Land Co to Margaret Brumgart, wd to 10 in 6, 6th McCook 250 00
Margaret Brumgart et con to Joseph E Stansberry, wd to same as above 1 00
Walter Hickling et ux to James H Duvall, wd to se qr 21-3-29 7500 00
A H Knuth et ux to W A Knuth, wd to n hf sw qr, se qr sw qr, sw qr se qr 26-4-30 2000 00
United States to August Droll, pat to nw qr 18-3-19 50 00
James Wilson to John Harrison, wd to 10 in 31, Indianola 50 00
Rub out lines and wrinkles and make your complexion fresh and young by the use of Hudnut's Cold Cream.
L. W. McCONNELL, Druggist.
Millinery at practically your own price at 114 east B street—rear of DeGroff's.

ADVERTISED LIST.

The following letters, cards and packages remain uncalled for at the McCook postoffice, Jan. 7, 1910.
LETTERS.
Clark Miss Blanche, Clough Mrs. C. G., Green D. A., Hickman Mr. Eli, Jones Mr. Tommy, Mullen Mr. Pent, Nelson Mrs. F., Nilsson Miss Tory, Peterson Mrs. Nora.
CARDS.
Fitzgerald Rev. D. F., Fisher Mr. J. K., Halson Miss M., Imel Charlie, Lyle Mr. Earl, Purnphry Mr. G., Rupp Mr. Cleave.
When calling for these, please say they were advertised.
LOS CONE, P. M.
Load up your camera and get some good winter scenes. We have everything in supplies that you will want.
L. W. McCONNELL, Druggist.
Real and genuine bargains in millinery. Rear of DeGroff's—114 east B street.
Get our prices on canned goods before buying. Wagner grocery and meat market.
Mary Harrison, nurse. Phone black 296.