

**DIAMOND DICK EXPLAINS**

The Making of Precious Jewels And From What They Are Made. He Gave

**N. P. FRANDSEN, THE JEWELER,**

Of 109 South 16th Street, the Only Manufacturered Diamond Known to Science. Many Curious Questions From Curious People.

(For the Press.) Among all the precious stones few are so extensively imitated as the pearl. The real article is a silver white iridescent gem extracted from the pearl oyster. The real pearl is really an unfruited egg of the oyster. Its imitation is arrived at by a chemical process; the liquor employed in the manufacture is called essence "D'Orient;" the base of the compound is prepared by throwing into water of ammonia the brilliant scales of a small river fish called the blay. The white or the scales of the black fish is sometimes used, as well as that of the dace and the rounch. The scales are first carefully washed and put to soak in water, when the pearly film falls away and forms a sediment at the bottom of the vessel; this sediment is worth to the manufacturer \$5 per ounce. White wax of muscilage, or gun salable, form part of the mixture for the most expensive imitations made, to warrant it being placed side by side with that of the expensive oriental pearl, which bring most fabulous prices, but baffle me to detect from its most costly prototype. They are blown into shells by a patient process and sometimes rolled in sand. Of course, they are not sold in the west, from the fact that pearls are not the rage, and then they cost too much and their perfection is not appreciated. The art of science is too great for the common class to understand its value, and when the woman of the west wants pearls she can go to a 50-cent counter and get a whole string of glass beads for this amount; she thinks all imitations are alike; but among the foreign and eastern titled moneyed classes they are largely worn. They say they would sooner have them than the genuine because they are made perfect. The diamond is popularly supposed to be the most expensive of precious gems, but a good ruby will bring a longer price, carat and carat, than a good diamond. It invested in the real pigeon blood color, heavily distributed and without a flaw, a good ruby will bring ten times as much as a diamond. The ruby, like the pearl, is a favorite target for imitation. In France, where the making of precious stones is largely carried on, Henry Prairie, a chemist, is able to collect the dust and small stones of the ruby and with an electric apparatus, fuse them into one stone. It is not classified as an imitation, as it has all the chemical and physical characteristics of the real article of the finest grade.

Eight years ago, when I acted as foreign buyer for a number of New York importers, I heard that a Mr. Prahl of France had struck a very mine and after an exchange of several cables I called for Paris; upon my arrival he laid before me a stock of gems that would involve me in millions of dollars. I asked him a few questions: "Who are the buyer for the leading firms of America?" and he said, "and if you don't know a perfect gem when you see it, they had better get a man who does." I put it through the most severe chemical analysis and was satisfied as to its genuineness. I then called at the custom house to inquire as to the duty and found that I could land them in this government at half the usual price. That night at the hotel I put my thoughts into execution. He would have landed me, but the price was too low and the snap was too great. I could have stranded every firm I represented, as they were anxious and their capital was at my command. However, it was not on account of my good judgment, as the stone is really genuine and of the first quality, but I guessed and guesed right, and a blind goose will find a kernel of corn once in a while. It soon leaked out that the rubies from Paris were made by art and the price dropped down from \$200 to \$20 per carat. It is not necessary that this accident made me solid with every American importer. The emerald is another gem extensively imitated, a perfect emerald is the rarest gem in the world, although the trade ranks it after the ruby and the diamond. The best emeralds come from Peru, the imitations from France. The real article becomes electric by friction, and herein lies the difference between it and the imitation; in making of the latter oxide of chromium enter largely in the composition, the paste being made up of a green, crystallized mineral which is found in Asia, and to which protoxide of copper silica is added. Many precious stones are imitated in this manner of what the trade calls "doubtless" a thin layer, a mere shaving of almandine (a species of a garnet) is placed on the artificial base with a glue that requires a microscope to detect the joint; it has all the outward characteristics of the real article. Few jewellers, if any, would pass this off for a genuine stone, but when it is mounted it plays the part of a genuine to perfection. Artificial diamonds up until two years ago flooded the market, the dealers in glass diamonds were in full service for fortune; the poor ignoramus class were made to believe that by paying advertising fees for 50 cents and a little more could get a big diamond.

The nature of the real article is pure carbon in its crystallized condition, and modern chemistry is so advanced now days as to show the way clear in marking a diamond. Upon its announcement in November, 1901, I sailed for Paris for investigation, and after long waiting with all the analysis known to science, I joined with the other six dealers of the world in admitting that the little Frenchman had laid before us an unsuitable diamond. During my long connection with my employers I never betrayed their unlimited confidence they had in me, but this time the temptation was too great and I stole the snap away from them, as I took all the money I had, borrowed all I could borrow, and bought enough to control the sale of all for the United States and Canada. From what it is made I do not know, but I can truthfully say that if all diamond admirers would know the true merits of it they would all make money as well as myself. Instead of giving it to the South African Diamond trust for an old yellow off-color stone that ought to be put into a drill and pay ten times as much as it is worth.

**MEEKER ASKS A MONUMENT**

Oregon Pioneer Wants School Children to Assist in Marking Trail.

**NIGHT SCHOOLS TO OPEN OCTOBER 29**

Secretary Burgess Files Report Showing Condition of Different Funds with a Comparison with Previous Years.

Ezra Meeker appeared before the Board of Education Monday night and presented his scheme of erecting monuments along the route of the old Oregon trail. After listening to Mr. Meeker the master was referred to a committee of President McCague, Superintendent Davidson and Dr. Vance for action. That committee decided to allow Mr. Meeker to call on the various schools with his ox team and prairie schooner, make short talks to the children, who may contribute any sum from 1 cent up for the erection of a monument on the high school grounds. The teachers will receive the contributions and make reports to the superintendent, with the names of each pupil contributing.

The Omaha monument will be the twentieth erected along the route through the instrumentality of Mr. Meeker. The monument will be a memorial to the pioneer of 1845 and the period immediately following.

A report from the committee on teachers and examinations was adopted, providing that night schools be opened October 29 and continue five school months at the Comensus and Kellom schools. These schools will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week and the rosters of teachers will be: Comensus, Louise Adams, principal; Carrie Robertson, Edie Nichols, Lulu Hunt, Elizabeth Hendryx, Elsie Thornton and Elizabeth R. Parkes; Kellom, Alta Peacock, principal; Alice Gorst, Edna Walworth, Elsie Fisher, Johanna Anderson, Grace Griffith and Celia Schaller.

**Sixty at Rug.**

A recommendation from the committee on supplies that the principal of Columbian school be furnished a rug was adopted by a vote of 9 to 3. Members Lindsay, Dempster and McCague not taking kindly to the rug idea. Mr. Lindsay wanted to know what the rug was for and whether the school had ever had a rug for the principal.

Upon recommendation of the committee on buildings and property the action of the board September 15 ordering the removal of the Clifton Hill school annex to the Druid Hill school was rescinded, the committee finding on investigation that an addition of two rooms at a cost of \$1,500 should be made at the Druid Hill school. Recommendation approved.

Architect F. W. Clarke presented his plans for the Vinton school, to be erected at Twenty-first and Boulevard avenue. The plans were examined by the board and referred to the committee on buildings and property for further scrutiny.

**Report by Secretary.**

The following report from Secretary Burgess was approved and placed on file:

Gentlemen: Herewith I present a statement of the amounts apportioned for the various departments for the month of September, 1906, the amounts expended during July, August and September, 1906, and amounts remaining October 1, 1906; also a comparative statement of the expenditures for the first three months of the school year 1906-7, the first three months of the site and building fund and the general fund warrants outstanding October 1, 1906.

Ex. Re: Apportioned, pending, mainaining.

Advertising ..... \$ 50.00 \$ 32.00

Books ..... 10,000.00 10,000.00

Cartage ..... 320.00 65.50

Census ..... 1,000.00 813.24

Construction ..... 2,000.00 186.76

Drawing, etc. ..... 2,000.00 219.70

Electric power ..... 2,500.00 206.20

Express, etc. ..... 170.00 234.90

Fuel ..... 300.00 184.00

Furniture ..... 20,000.00 17,815.53

Printing ..... 4,000.00 351.50

Insurance ..... 5,000.00 2,948.50

Interest, etc. ..... 1,000.00 926.00

Janitors ..... 36,000.00 37,576.00

Map, etc. ..... 1,200.00 1,700.00

Officers, clerks, etc. ..... 12,500.00 3,440.00

Postage ..... 2,000.00 412.50

Rent ..... 150.00 79.50

Repairs ..... 120.00 20.00

Special Taxes ..... 1,875.00 1,875.00

Teachers ..... 318,000.00 327,552.00

Miscellaneous ..... 8,519.00 467.36

Totals ..... \$516,350 \$33,269.31 \$481,449.36

Add for bond refunding fund— 47,000

Add for insurance fund— 1,000

\$504,350

Less amount ex. in excess of estimates— 1,399.27

\$504,350 \$33,269.31 \$480,950.99

Comparative statement of expenditures for first three months of the school year

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