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**RUSSIA SHEET IRON.**  
F. L. Garrison communicates to the Journal of the United States Association of charcoal workers the following in regard to this much misunderstood question:  
There appears to be much misapprehension in reference to the manufacture of sheet iron in Russia, and questions are frequently asked the writer: "What are the secrets connected with it?" "How is it made?" "Could admission be obtained to the iron works in the Urals, where this iron is made?" It is difficult to understand why such questions should be asked by persons versed in the literature of iron and steel, for Dr. Percy wrote a very excellent and accurate monograph on the subject a number of years ago.  
Not having had the opportunity of personally visiting the Russian iron works in the Urals, Dr. Percy's paper was compiled from data furnished him by persons who had actually visited these sheet iron works. Since it has been my good fortune to have the opportunity of seeing some of these works in the Urals but a short time ago, I will, at the risk of telling an old story, briefly describe the process of manufacture as I saw it.  
The ores used for the manufacture of this iron are mostly from the celebrated mines of Maloblagodatj, and average about the following chemical composition: Metallic iron 60 per cent, silica 5 per cent, phosphorus from 0.15 to 0.08 per cent. The ore is generally smelted into charcoal-pig iron and converted into malleable iron by puddling or by a Frenche-Comte hearth. Frequently, however, the malleable iron is made directly from the ore in various kinds of bloomeries.  
The blooms or billets thus obtained are rolled into bars 6 inches wide, 4 1/2 inch thick and thirty inches in length. These bars are assorted, the inferior ones "piled" and re-rolled, while the others are carefully heated to redness and cross rolled into sheets about 30 inches square, requiring from eight to ten passes through the rolls. These sheets are twice again heated to redness and rolled in sets of three each, care being taken that every sheet before being passed through the rolls is brushed off with a broom made of fir, and at the same time that powdered charcoal is extensively sprinkled between the sheets. Ten passes are thus made, and the resulting sheets trimmed to a standard size of 25 by 56 inches. After being assorted and the defective ones thrown out, each sheet is wet with water, dusted with charcoal powder and dried. They are then made into packets containing from 60 to 100 and bound up with waste sheets.  
The packets are placed one at a time with a log of wood at each of the four sides, in a nearly air tight chamber, and carefully annealed for five or six hours. When this has been completed the packet is removed and hammered with a trip hammer weighing about a ton, the area of its striking surface being about 6 by 14 inches. The face of the hammer is made of this somewhat unusual shape in order to secure a wavy appearance on the surface of the packet. After the packet has received 90 blows equally distributed over its surface it is reheated and the hammering repeated in the same manner. Some time after the first hammering the packet is broken and the sheets wet with a mop to harden the surface. After the second hammering the packet is broken, the sheets examined to see if any of the sheets are welded together and completely finished cold sheets are placed alternately between those of the packet thus making a large packet of from 140 to 200 sheets. It is supposed that the interposition of these cold sheets produces the peculiar greenish color that the finished sheets possess on cooling.  
This large packet is then given what is known as the finishing or polishing hammering. For this purpose the trip hammer used has a larger face than the others, having an area about 17 by 21 inches. When the hammering has been properly done, the packet has received 60 blows, equally distributed, and the sheets should have a perfectly smooth, mirror like surface. The packet is now broken before cooling, each sheet closed with a wet fir broom to remove the remaining charcoal powder, carefully inspected, and the good sheets stood on their edges in vertical racks to cool. These sheets are trimmed to regulation size, 28 by 56 inches and assorted into Nos. 1, 2 or 3, according to their appearance, and again assorted according to weight, which varies from 10 to 12 pounds per sheet. The quality varies according to color and freedom from flaws or spots. A first class sheet must be without the slightest flaw and have a peculiar metallic gray color, and on bending a number of times with the fingers, very little or no scale is separated, as in the case of ordinary sheet iron.  
The peculiar property of Russian sheet iron is the beautiful polished coating of oxides ("glanz") which it possesses. If there is any secret in the process it probably lies in the trick of giving this polish. As far as I was able to judge, from personal observation and conversation with the Russian iron-masters, the excellence of this sheet iron appeared to be due to no secret, but to a variety of conditions pecu-

liar to and nearly always present in the Russian iron works in the Urals. Besides the few particulars already noted in the above description of this process, it should be borne in mind that the iron ores of the Urals are particularly pure, and that the fuel used is exclusively charcoal and wood. Another and equally as important consideration, lies in the fact that this same process of manufacturing sheet iron has been carried on in the Urals for the last hundred years. As a consequence, the workmen have acquired a peculiar skill, the want of which has made attempts to manufacture equally as good iron outside of Russia generally less successful. It is difficult to understand what effect the use of charcoal powder between the sheets, as they are rolled and hammered, has upon the quality. It is equally as difficult to understand the effect of the cold finished sheets upon the production of the polished coating of oxide. The Russian iron-masters seem to attribute the excellence of their product more to this peculiar treatment than to any other cause. One thing is quite certain, there is no secret about the process, and if the Russian sheet iron is so much superior to any other, it is due to the combination of causes already indicated.

**ALIEN MINE OWNERS.**  
From the Albuquerque Citizen.  
The senate committee on mines and mining has made its report pursuant to a resolution adopted at the last session of congress, instructing that committee to inquire into the matter of alien ownership of mines in the territories of the United States. This inquiry was made in connection with the subject of alien ownership of lands, it being contended that there was a very great difference between a foreign individual or corporation owning a mine and owning a large tract of land; and the report bears out the contention.  
The San Francisco Chronicle says it is shown that over \$20,000,000 have been invested by aliens in the mines of the territories; that known dividends amounting to \$4,700,000 have been realized from these investments, and that the probable gross product of the mines has reached \$50,000,000, all of which, except the dividends, have been expended in this country for labor, machinery and materials. The report concludes that the use of foreign capital in the territories has been equally beneficial with domestic capital in aiding the development of mines, and that no good purpose would be subserved by excluding aliens from owning mines in the territories.  
In other words, Senator Stewart's committee does not recommend killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. If foreign capitalists want to put their money into mines in the territories, Senator Stewart, who has some personal experience in mining, will do nothing to prevent them; and he and his committee are clearly right. It must be borne in mind that no mining claim taken up under the laws of the United States can exceed 1,500 feet in length by 600 in width, and that it seldom happens that a foreign corporation desirous of buying mines can find a contiguous group of locations. The surface ground then that they can obtain is trifling in extent, and is generally worthless for any purpose except mining. So that, the most they can do is to take out and carry away the hidden treasures. And if the most they can do is to put in \$20,000,000, take out \$50,000,000 gross and carry away only \$4,000,000 in dividends, we are not hurt very much.  
**Remarkable Case.**  
For two years I had rheumatism so bad that it disabled me for work, and confined me to my bed for a whole year, during which time I could not even raise my hands to my head and for three months could not raise myself in bed; was reduced in flesh from 192 to 88 lbs.; was treated by best physicians only to grow worse. Finally I took Swift's Specific, and soon improve. After a while was at my work, and from the past five months have been as well as I ever was—all from the effects of Swift's Specific. JOHN RAY, Ft. Wayne, Ind., Jan. 8, 1889.  
Swift's Specific is a purely vegetable remedy, contains no Mercury, Potash or other mineral, is harmless to the most delicate infant. Our treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases will be mailed free.  
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**Fingers Came Off.**  
My little son, five years old, was afflicted with a disease for which the doctors had no name. The nails came off his fingers, and his fingers came off his hands up to the middle joint. For three years he has suffered dreadfully, and has taken quantities of medicine. He is now getting well under treatment of Swift's Specific. JOHN DEHL, Penn. Ind., Jan. 12, 1889.  
**Prospector:** The probability of George Hearst and associates getting hold of a large copper property at Bisbee is bordering on an almost certainty. Several properties have been bonded to them and that they will take hold of them is almost beyond peradventure.

**NEWS NUGGETS.**  
Various Items of News Gathered from Our Exchanges and other Sources.

**Las Vegas Hot Spring's Waifs:** Medical men are often asked if asafoetida is a reliable prophylactic against small pox? Si, señor. If A. wears asafoetida and fears small pox and B. wears small pox and fears asafoetida, B. will naturally shun A. and keep such a distance from him that small pox will not be communicable. The foetid drug has its uses. It is said to be good for the breath.

**Optic:** Five weeks ago yesterday Charles Turner came to Las Vegas from New Haven, Connecticut, and his parents, at home bade him good bye, firmly believing that he had come here to die. In fact, did not believe he would be able to reach here. He was, upon his arrival, so weak that he could scarcely walk the distance of a block. He has recovered so that he can take exercise all day, ride horse back, and even perform work.  
The county of Doña Ana has instituted mandamus proceeding against commissioners of Sierra county to compel them to levy a tax with which to pay the amount of the judgment, about \$14,000, rendered against Sierra in favor of Doña Ana.

J. C. Evans was shot and dangerously wounded at Globe last week by John Newman. The shooting grew out of a law suit over a mining claim, and from the account of the affair given in the Silver Belt Newman acted in a cold-blooded and cowardly manner.

A mad-dog made things lively at the ranch of Dr. Owen, near Folsom. He bit two other dogs and also a fine Hereford bull belonging to the doctor. At last he was checked in his mad career but not until he had done considerable damage.

Las Vegas is going to have an electric light.

Last week Fannie Oliver, colored, killed a colored soldier at the hog ranch near Fort Grant and escaped.

The Black Diamond coal mine at Gallup cut wages ten cents per ton and the miners struck.

A man, giving his name as R. Otto of Denver, committed suicide at Albuquerque last week. The city marshal thinks he is Fifty Thousand Dollar Tascott, the Chicago murderer.

News-Register: The man who will start a poultry ranch in this vicinity this spring, will feather his own bed handsomely. An acre or two of oats sown early this spring will furnish good green pasture for them, and if the season proves propitious, feed for them later on. No enterprise requiring little capital than poultry raising here where a good market may always be found. From personal observation the News-Register can state that poultry are healthy here and can be raised with as little trouble as and where on the continent.

Commissioner Millesen purchased a 70,000 pounds safe for the county records at Chama. It cost \$1,000, and is big enough to hold all the records for the next twenty years.

A colony of farmers from Rutland, Sergeant county, Dakota, has arranged to settle in Colfax county this spring.

The meanest man up to date was recently discovered by the Gazette in Phenix. His name is Saitkins. He sold Jones a half interest in a cow and then refused to divide the milk, maintaining that Jones owned the front end.

Socorro is having a temperance boom.  
Considerable coke is being shipped south from Cerrillos.

Some very fine gold nuggets have been washed out lately by Mexicans working in Cold Spring gulch, not half a mile from Hillsboro.

**Rustler:** The owners of the Cerrillos coal mines are loading about ten cars of the black diamond daily, aggregating 170 tons, and cash value about \$475. This is a neat little daily revenue. The hauling of the coal from the mines to the cars, between two and three miles, gives employment to a large number of men.

H. G. Bell, a G. A. R. man of Galveston, Texas, asks his comrades throughout the country to assist him in finding his son, Walter Everett Bell, who mysteriously disappeared from his home in Galveston on March 8th, 1888. If alive he is now eighteen years old, has light hair, blue eyes, large straight nose and is slim built.

Hillsboro wants a hospital.  
All the employes of the morning paper in Albuquerque have signed the temperance pledge, and expect to establish a national bank in a few weeks.  
The fast mail between New York and San Francisco is now made in 113 hours. Steam and rails have made a great adripegement of time.  
Ayer's Cherry Pectoral possesses powerful healing qualities, which manifest themselves whenever this remedy is employed in colds, coughs, throat or lungs troubles. Its anodyne and expectorant effects are promptly realized. It is a chemical success and medical triumph.

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