Brick and Other Clays of Des Moines

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BRICK AND OTHER CLAYS OF DES MOINES.

BY CHARLES R. KEYES.

(ABSTRACT.)

In the absence of extensive exposures of good building stone, in the immediate vicinity of many of the larger cities of the State, architectural materials must be derived in large part always from other sources. Fortunately, in and about these towns there are exhaustless supplies of good clays from which may be manufactured easily the ordinary structural and ornamental materials. These clays, however, as is well known, have diverse properties, certain ones being better adapted for particular purposes than others, while some may be used more advantageously in different ways. Hence the indiscriminate working of the deposits is not attended by the highest economic results, and often ends disastrously. This does not apply to one locality, but to the entire State. Clay is constantly being put to a multitude of uses which were undreamed of a decade ago. Everywhere this material is becoming more and more important, economically, in draining farm lands, in sewerage, in paving, in all kinds of building. And there are still countless other ways in which it might be used with great profit. Manufactured clay is daily replacing other building material, such as granite and similar rocks, on account of its cheapness, its practically equal durability, and its great range of artistic effect with a requirement of much less labor than is possible in the case of the natural rock.

ALUMINUM IN IOWA.

BY CHARLES R. KEYES.

(ABSTRACT.)

Attention is called to the birth of an industry in Iowa that promises to be one of the greatest industries of the State in the near future. It is the establishment of a plant for the production of aluminum. As is well known, this metal is soon to be the metal of the world—replacing largely iron, steel and other metallic substances used in the arts. The properties of aluminum need not be dwelt upon here. The cost of producing the metal has hitherto been the great drawback to its general usage. A few years ago the price was $15.00 or more a pound. Now