Senate Read. Room

THE DAILY EXAMINER

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READY-TO-WEAR CLOTHING

Every man who has yet to buy clothing owes it to himself to see our stock. In quality and quantity it surpasses anything of the kind ever seen on P. E. Island, and is really a source of pleasure to show. We wish to impress upon the minds of shoppers that we can do more for you in Ready-to wear Clothing than any house in the trade.

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OUR LADIES' SACQUES

are going fast. In these goods we show a special value at $3.25 These Jackets are direct from Berlin, and are everything that fashion demands.

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COFF BROS.

TALK ABOUT STEEL.

ONE WHO KNOWS EXPLAINS METHODS OF MANUFACTURE.

Careful Purchasers Must Be Well Posted. The Crucible, the Bessemer and the Open Hearth Steel—It Is What the Metal Contains That Counts, After All.

What is steel?

A metal composed of from 97 per cent to 99.06 of iron and from 3 per cent to .04 of carbon is properly called steel. Many other substances, however, are commonly found in steel. Among these are sulphur, phosphorus, silicon, copper and manganese. These ingredients give various properties to the metal, according to the amounts present. There are also several alloys of steel with other metals, but these are generally designated by hyphenated titles, such as "chrome-steel," "nickel-steel," etc.

How is steel made?

In many ways if we consider details. The principal methods are three. The resulting products are known as crucible steel, bessemer steel and open hearth steel.

What is crucible steel?

Crucible steel is obtained as the result of fusing together in a crucible the substances desired in any quality of steel.

What is bessemer steel?

Bessemer steel is made by forcing a blast of air through melted iron. By this process the substances not desired in the steel are burned up. As some ingredients which are needed are also consumed, these substances (carbon, etc.) are added before the liquid metal is permitted to cool.

What is open hearth steel?

Chemically the open hearth method is substantially the same as the bessemer process, but in making open hearth steel the forced blast is done away with and the metal while melting and after complete liquefaction is kept exposed to the air in such a way that the impurities are oxidized or slowly burned out of the iron. The constituents other than iron are added before solidification.

Which is the best of these three kinds of steel?

There is no answer to this question as it is phrased. That steel is best whose strength, ductility, hardness, toughness, etc., are best adapted and proportioned for the use for which it is intended. These qualities depend upon the composition of the steel and upon its treatment—i. e., whether it has been forged, rolled, drawn, tempered, annealed, etc.

It is wholly immaterial whether the mixing of the iron, carbon, manganese and the rest is done in a crucible, a bessemer converter or an open hearth furnace so long as the same materials are compounded with equal skill and the steels treated after manufacture with the same care and judgment.

But is it not generally conceded that crucible steel is the best steel?

By no means. There certainly was a time when the manufacturer of the crucible method was more skillful and more successful than others. This process is the oldest, and its advocates attained excellence while others were experimenting—indeed before the later methods were devised. It is not to be wondered at that the traditions of that time are still current in many shops and are expressed in many books which discuss the properties of steel. The method is still in use and is well adapted to the production of small quantities of special grades of steel, but, as a matter of fact, while every method of manufacture has its partisans, the superiority of crucible steel can no longer be demonstrated. This is conceded by prominent authorities and is the necessary conclusion of those who are familiar with the most recent investigations and tests.

Has any one of these three processes an advantage over the others?

The maker of steel will decide that question for himself, having due regard to his surroundings and to the scope of his undertaking. The user of steel will ask what the steel is made of, not what it is made in. He will aim to secure the properties which suit his work without regard to the methods of manufacturing the metal. In general, if a man uses much steel he will be likely to purchase where he can get large quantities all alike. Crucible steel, made in lots not exceeding 100 pounds each, would hardly answer. A careful purchaser of steel analyzes and tests samples from each consignment which is received. To do this for one sample in every hundredweight would call for an intolerable number of analyses, to say nothing of the uneven quality of the steel itself when considered in large quantities.

What is cast steel?

All steel made by the processes which we have discussed is really cast steel—that is, the metal becomes steel while melted and is then run in molds. The name cast steel should be restricted to steel which is cast in the shape in which it is intended to be used. The result is inferior for most purposes to that obtained by forging and similar methods. There is much confusion, however, in the popular use of this term.

What is tool steel?

The term has no scientific meaning. Those who use it mean any steel suitable for making tools. It may be crucible steel, bessemer steel, open hearth steel or steel made by some less important method. For no good reason the name tool steel is often regarded with almost superstitious awe. The agent of the steelmaker calls a substance tool steel, knowing little or nothing of its composition and properties. The steel user buys it, the workman makes things of it, the consumer buys and uses the things. Sometimes the steel is adapted to its use and everybody is satisfied. Sometimes it is not, and the consumer finds fault and the agent sells no more steel to that manufacturer. Meantime nobody concerned, except the original maker, has the least idea what the stuff called tool steel really is. No manufacturer knows what he is buying unless he has a laboratory where his purchase can be tested.

What is machine steel?

That is another shop name. It is applied to any steel which is soft enough to be easily cut and drilled.

On the whole, does it make any difference how steel is made?

Not to the consumer, provided the steel is correct in chemical constitution and physical properties, and these are matters of fact to be ascertained by careful tests, not matters or opinion to be decided by oratory.—Brooklyn Eagle.

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