

Great Quarries Near Hershey

Lime Rock of High Commercial Value Is Produced in Abundance

APPROACHING Hershey from the East, one cannot but wonder at the number and magnitude of quarries of limestone which form such a great industry in the Lebanon Valley which is one of the most beautiful valleys of our country. Here all monotony of scenery ceases and we enter mile after mile of country unsurpassed for its grandeur and sublimity. A stranger's attention is at once attracted by the constant blasting and he feels at first that he must have dropped into a besieged city surrounded by powerful fortifications.

Everything among these hills of nature's workmanship suggests strength and power. Back of all one feels a persistent force constantly pushing and urging things to the front and the tools used are earth's most powerful agents—dynamite and powder. Here let us call your attention to the native man who makes such forces his implements. Without imagination, stolid, almost as unmovable as the rocks he shatters, a real production of his own hills, he approaches possible death. As these terrific bombarding sounds are carried to your ears, remember a man has braved his fate. Really an unconscious hero has been near us. Ignorance of possibilities may produce a seeming hero, but this is not the case here for the man who works the drill and touches off the fuse knows what the act means.

The geological formations have a northeast and southwest trend and in a general way lie parallel to one another. The northern side of the Lebanon Valley consists of a series of steep hills ranging from forty to one hundred feet above the general level of the limestone valley and from four hundred to seven hundred feet above the sea. The rocks composing these formations are sedimentary, excepting the trap rock which is intrusive and all are more or less broken and inclined.

What is called the limestone valley contains large deposits of limestone formation which often project through the soil covering. This geological arrangement proves to be of great economic importance to the section in that it furnishes lime rock of high commercial value over a large area. This limestone is used for building, for burning lime and the more impure portions for road material. The rock is a massive blue limestone containing many thin calcite veins, as well as a number of quartz veins.

Limestone is a mass of carbonate of lime either nearly pure or mixed with clay or other impurity. Few rocks vary more in texture and composition. It may be a hard, flinty, close-grained mass, breaking with a splintery or conchoidal fracture or a crystal lime rock built up of fine crystals of calcite and resembling a close-grained sandstone or freestone. The colors, too, vary extensively, the most common

being shades of blue-gray and cream color passing to white.

Some limestones are highly siliceous, the calcareous matter having been accompanied with silica in the act of deposition; others are sandy, dolomitic or bituminous. Besides the limestone resulting from the deposition of chemical precipitate of carbonate of lime, there is another important series derived from the remains of organisms, either by growth on the spot or by accumulation as mechanical sediment. Limestone so originating has often been so altered that it cannot always be distinguished from that which has been chemically produced, especially when it has been exposed to the action of percolating, acidulated water, for in that case a crystal line texture is gradually superinduced by which the original organic structures in the mass are wholly or in a great part obliterated.

Limestone composed of the remains of living organisms forms thin layers and massive beds, in some instances as in that of the English and Irish mountain limestone, it occurs in masses several thousand feet thick which extends for hundreds of square miles. From this rock picturesque valleys, gorges, hills and table lands have been excavated. Coral rock is limestone formed by the continuous growth of coral building polyps. This substance affords an excellent illustration of the way in which organic structure may be effaced from a limestone entirely formed from the remains of once living animals. Though the skeletons of the reef building corals remain distinct on the upper surface, those of their predecessors beneath them are gradually obliterated by the passage through them of percolating water dissolving and redepositing carbonate of lime.

Lime, the commercial article, is generally gray or otherwise discolored by the presence of foreign oxides, and produced industrially by heating limestone in kilns between layers of fuel which in the United States is usually coal and sometimes wood.

Lime being the cheapest of powerful bases, is largely used in chemical manufacturing and it serves for the causticising of soda, for the preparation of ammonia from ammonia salts, and for the manufacture of bleaching powder. It also enters into the composition of certain kinds of glass, and is used as a lime or as carbonate in the making of soda ash.

Miniature Trolley Is Great Attraction

Skirts Hershey Park. Will Carry Sixty Passengers. Three-Rail System

ONE of the popular attractions at the Hershey park is the miniature trolley which was used for the first time this season. The road begins near the entrance to the park where there is an imposing waiting room where the cars are

boarded under cover, reminding one of the city subway lines.

The line extends thru the Hershey woodlands on the outskirts of the park and follows Spring Creek which runs thru the park. At one point the little electric train passes thru a ten-foot cut in the limestone rock and one can easily imagine that the scenery is mountain. The view of the little stream dotted with jolly rowers visible now and then thru the openings among the trees makes the scene one of beauty and grandeur.

At the dam the cars cross a large concrete bridge and then continue on past the athletic field until they come to the other terminus near the beautiful rustic bridge. The entire distance is nearly a mile. The three-rail system is used, thus eliminating the overhead trolley.

A motor of 50-horse power and four cars make up the train. Sixty persons can make the trip at once. The rails are two feet apart and are laid with a high degree of accuracy. The roadbed has been carefully graded to the tenth of an inch. This road has attracted considerable attention from a distance and has been given space in the Scientific American with cut accompanying. It has proved to be one of the special features of the park amusements this season and has been patronized by thousands.

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