HOW CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE WAS SAVED

New Process Invented to Preserve Surface of Monolith in Central Park.

HIEROGLYPHS OBLITERATED.

Rigors of Western Climate Caused Khedive's Gift to Disintegrate. Painting Ancient Obelisk With Special Preparation Stayed Decay—Ruined Portions Restored.

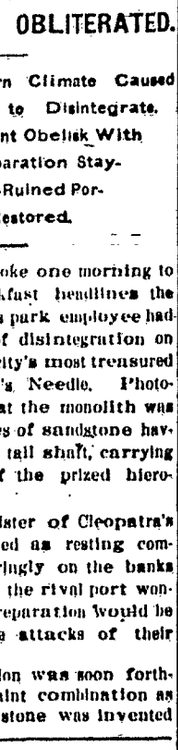
New Yorkers awoke one morning to find in their breakfast headlines the news that a zealous park employee had discovered signs of disintegration on the surface of the city's most treasured antique—Cleopatra's Needle. Photographs revealed that the monolith was peeling, large pieces of sandstone having fallen from the tall shaft, carrying with them part of the prized hieroglyphs.

London's twin sister of Cleopatra's Needle was reported as resting comfortably and enduringly on the banks of the Thames, and the rival port wondered whether a preparation would be found to stay the attacks of their harsher climate.

Such a preparation was soon forthcoming. A new paint combination as a preservative for stone was invented by Dr. William Kuckro, chemist of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Many years previous coating with paraffin had been tried, but the application had not entirely accomplished its purpose. The new painting process, however, proved a success. Disintegration was halted and the damaged parts restored. New York breathed easily again.

THE OBELISK.

The Obelisk was presented to the City of New York by the Khedive of Egypt. Lieutenant Commander Gorringe, U. S. N., after a three years' effort obtained possession of it and moved it to its present position at an expense of nearly $100,000. It was finally swung into position at noon, January 22, 1881.



The height of this monument, from base to tip, is 69 feet, 2 inches. The measurement of the base, square through its axis, is 7 feet, 8¾ inches. The entire weight of the monolith is 219¾ tons.

Since it was quarried near the torrid zone, it has traversed the entire length of Egypt, most of that of the Mediterranean Sea, and the width of the Atlantic Ocean—a distance of 6,400 miles—proving itself a first rate traveler for one whose age has exceeded thirty-five centuries. In the course of its existence it has seen Pharaoh and his host going to their destruction in the Red Sea, Shishak marching to the Conquest of Jerusalem, Cambyses desolating the land; Herodotus, Plato and other Greek students engaged in pursuit of Egyptian lore; Alexander the Great on his victorious expedition through the land of Goshen, six and a half centuries of Roman sovereignty and Christian struggle at Alexandria, all the long line of Moslem rulers since Caliph Omar; and now, leaving altogether its native land, it stands looking upon the million dwellers in this metropolis, whose site was unknown to the Eastern world at a time when the obelisk had been in existence for two thousand years.

PAINT PROTECTION AND ITS ECONOMY.

The preservation of structural materials, which may be obtained through the application of paint, constitutes a most vital means of furthering the conservation of our natural resources. It is, moreover, the most economical method of sustaining the appearance and general upkeep of any community.

A structure coated with sheets of India rubber would not be as well protected from decay as a structure coated with a good oil paint. This is due to the fact that a sheet of rubber is not so durable or as waterproof as a thin dried film of paint. The latter material when applied dries to a continuous elastic film containing finely divided particles of metallic, wear resisting pigments. A square foot of such a film upon a wooden surface costs less than a penny, yet it will beautify and protect a dollar's worth of surface for many years. This is a low rate of insurance.

Dwellings, barns, outbuildings, sheds, posts, fences, stock enclosures, wagons, implements, windmills and other structures, whether of wood, iron or cement, should be preserved, through the use of paint, from rapid decay. High grade paint may be used successfully for all such purposes. Colored paints will be found the most serviceable, the coloring matter in the paint adding from two to three years to the life of the coating.

QUESTIONNAIRE

ANSWERS WHICH WILL SOLVE PERPLEXING PROBLEMS OF THIS RECONSTRUCTION ERA.

Query.—The government has launched an educational campaign to encourage building in order to put more men to work. Would not a similar movement to show how the old structures can be best and most economically repaired and made good as new also help?

Answer.—It is learned that such a plan is in effect and is linked directly with the Washington propaganda.

Industry must be turned back from works of war to the ways of peace. Employment must be found, in the meanwhile, for those whose occupation has been interrupted. There is no real surplus of labor in the United States. Rather there is a shortage which would be acute if normal conditions were already restored, and one step towards restoring them will come with resumption of repair work.

Government restrictions, imposed by the necessities of the war program, have for many months past retarded or altogether prevented construction, improvement and repairs. These restrictions are now off, and there is scarcely a town, a city, a factory, a dwelling or a farm that does not reveal a crying need for prompt attention. Nothing delays such instant action except the feeling that prices are high for the time being and may be lower.

That is not logical. No matter what it costs to repair, the cost is less than the cost of neglect. No matter what the cost of paint, the wind and the weather will collect a higher bill in deterioration and decay.

Query.—What do you think of paint as an investment, aside from the appearance it lends? Does it really PAY to paint a house regularly, say, every three or four years?

Answer.—Good paint properly applied when needed is the main thing in making a house last long and well. A house worth $2,500 can be painted at a cost of about $125. In 60 years that house will need about 15 paintings, the total cost of which will be $1,875. Left without paint, such a house would fall into complete ruin in 30 years. So taking 60 years as a basis for our figures we find that with paint a home will last that time in good condition and will cost, plus paint, $4,375. Without paint the house would have to be rebuilt at the end of 30 years and would be ready for another complete renovation when the sixtieth year arrived. Cost, without paint, $5,000 for a home ready to fall to pieces. Does regular painting pay? As the old Dutch adage says:

"PAINT PAYS FOR ITSELF."

Query.—I have a quantity of old paint on hand. Can I use it for the first coat in repainting my barn?

Answer.—On no account should old paint which has become fat be used for priming either old or new work. Old paint in that condition is best used on a fence, brickwork or tinwork. If you value your barn sufficiently to paint it, do it the justice of a good job.

U. S. Invents Anti-Rust "Dope."

Incident to the war, the government has faced the problem that has so long proved baffling to commercial concerns of protecting iron and steel from rust. In an attempt to solve this federal specialists have perfected various forms of protective coatings. In this connection it may be pertinent to ask whether commercial uses will not be found also for the so called "dopes" which the government has invented to be applied to airplane wings and which are possessed of valuable weather-resisting and fireproof qualities.

EFFECT OF COLOR UPON THE DURABILITY OF PAINT.

Property owners who may have under consideration the painting of dwellings and other structures should remember that more durable results are obtained when tinted paints are used. Permanent coloring materials which have been ground by machine into a high grade white paint base have the effect of preventing "chalking" and "checking," two defects which are often observed when white paints are used.

PRETTY COLOR COMBINATIONS.

Ground Coat	Stipple Coat	Stencil Color
White	Light Rose	Medium, Light Gray
White	Light Gray	Dull Blue, Gray-Green
White	Light Warm Yellow	Light Cobalt Blue, Neutral Light Drab
Light Gray	Same Gray, a little darker	Gray, Gray-Green or Light Cobalt Blue
Light Gray	Light Blue	Gray, Blue or Light Orange Yellow
Light Gray	Green	Light Gray, Neutral Drab
Ivory	Olive Green	Ivory or Grayish Light Green
Light Colonial Yellow	Light Blue	Neutral Gray, Ivory
Gold Bronze	Dark Green	Light Warm Linen, Medium Olive
Aluminum Bronze	Blue	Warm Gray, Cream Deep Blue Light Ivory, Light Neutral Gray
Ivory	Tan	Brown, Burnt Umber, Cream Light Tan, Cream, Light Gray Drab
Ivory	Dark Brown	

NEW YORK NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF.

Paragraphs of Interest to Readers of Empire State.

Interesting News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points in the State and So Reduced in Size That It Will Appeal to All Classes of Readers.

Dunkirk has sent a plea for Ireland to President Wilson.

Penn Yan has gone past its $75,000 quota for a new hospital.

Batavia's quota for the Victory loan has been placed at $1,000,000.

Penn Yan school teachers will each receive a raise of $100 a year.

There are said to be between 5,000 men out of work in Rochester.

Every alien in Rochester will be listed by the department of justice.

Penn Yan's campaign for a memorial hospital is gaining headway.

Lyons men have decided to invest $12,000 in an artificial ice plant there.

Olean's business men's association will conduct a free employment bureau.

Farmers around Olean need help, but they seem to demand a handpicked lot.

United States employment offices in Buffalo and Rochester are to be continued.

Hamburg business men favor the building of a $6,000 fire hall in that village.

Lewis Hosea Clark of Sodus will have charge of 50 school districts in that vicinity.

Six hours a day and $9 pay is the proposed demand of electrical workers in Rochester.

The Willys-Overland company is about to build a big tractor plant in Niagara Falls.

Livingston county believes it has the first county organization of Shriners ever perfected.

There is a possibility that a concrete barge shipyard will be built on the lower Genesee.

Hornell will have a three-days sale for the benefit of the blind of Southwestern New York.

Diseases have greatly cut down the yield of potatoes in Niagara county during the last two years.

Allegany county volunteer firemen will hold their annual convention at Bolivar on July 2, 3 and 4.

Commercial teachers of Western New York will hold their annual convention in Buffalo on March 22.

Medina will give gold medals to mothers of her heroes and bronze medals to the soldiers who return.

Grape growers in Keuka Lake region believe they will have a ready market for all fruit grown this year.

Information received in Dunkirk says no wines may be produced after June 1 and no wines may be sold after June 30.

Reports of the Rochester police show a 43 per cent increase in crime during last February as against February, 1918.

Senator Wadsworth is working with a Genesee committee to make a welcome home celebration to soldiers a great success.

Albion, Barre, Carlton and Gaines will unite in putting on a Victory banquet on April 23 in honor of the returned soldiers.

In Lockport the military training commission of the state has filed a list of 160 boys who have failed to turn out for drill.

Despite pleas to Senators Calder and Wadsworth, the 400 men let out by the Pennsylvania at Olean will not be taken on again.

Ontario county fruit men will receive their weather forecasts by telephone if they sign up for such service with their association.

Salamanca has purchased a 16 horse power kerosene tractor. It will displace three teams of horses used in street cleaning and grading.

W. Crawford Ramsdale, an Albion attorney and one of the owners of the Orleans Republican, has been elected president of the Albion school board.

Judson S. Wright of Falconer was elected president of the Schoolmasters' club of Western New York and Pennsylvania, at a meeting in Jamestown.

A canvass in Dunkirk shows that 632 adults and 1,053 children, all Poles, intend to leave that city and return to their native land as soon as they can.

The assembly, by a party vote, passed the Adler bill, which would provide for equal representation of employers and employes on the state industrial commission.

The Orleans County Sheep Breeders association has made arrangements to consign its wool to John F. McMurty of New York. It sold him nearly $40,000 worth last year.

An investigation of foodstuffs held in cold storage, especially meat, both in public and private plants in the state, has been ordered by the council of farms and markets.

A resolution requesting the federal railroad administration to lower, if possible, freight rates on materials to be used in the construction of public works was adopted by the New York assembly.

Half a dozen Western New York towns voted small salaries to their village presidents and boards of trustees, but Pestville rejected a proposition to compensate its president.

The state food commission, created at an extra session of the legislature in the summer of 1917, ceased to exist when Governor Smith signed the Machold bill repealing the act establishing the commission.

A bill was introduced in the legislature by Senator Thompson and Assemblyman Youker, which would require the erection on each side of all grade crossings of warning signs that would be visible at night.

An early labor shortage of 5,000,000 men in this country was predicted by Abraham I. Elkus, former ambassador to Turkey, and chairman of the state reconstruction commission, at the annual meting in New York of the Social Division of the Free Synagogue.

The so-called investment companies, organized to do an international banking business by promoting the nation's trade, are becoming an important factor in the banking system of New York state, according to George L. Skinner, state superintendent of banks.

Drilling for natural gas in Madison and Oneida counties, which was suspended some time ago, may be resumed soon if conditions in the labor and machinery markets continue to show improvement. A. E. Clark, who is making his headquarters at Morrisville, has secured options on about 70,000 acres in the two counties which are believed promising fields.

Reports from the federal bureau of markets of the department of agriculture show that on March 1, 1919, there were in Buffalo cold storage houses 1,851,146 pounds of butter and 2,772,667 pounds of dressed poultry. Feb. 1, 1919, the holdings in the storage houses there were 2,238,994 pounds of creamery butter and 2,002,696 pounds of dressed poultry.

Thomas E. Finegan, acting state commissioner of education has designated Arbor Day for 1919 on the following dates: Friday, April 11, for Long Island district and counties of Southeastern New York; Friday, April 25, for district comprising Northern New York; Friday, April 18, comprising the remainder of the state not included in the first and third districts.

The senate, by a party vote of 13 to 12, refused to permit the Twomey bills, which are designed to abolish the state narcotic drugs commission and transfer its activities to the state department of health to emerge from committee and be considered in open session. The bills are intended to carry out the recommendation of Governor Smith for the abolition of the commission.

Penalties aggregating more than $10,000 already have been paid by deer hunters in New York state for violations of the law during the last hunting season. Conservation Commissioner George D. Pratt made known in Albany. The majority of the cases thus far disposed of were settled by the offenders without the necessity of court proceedings on the part of the commission.

The recent lay-off of 375 Olean shops and yards employes of the Pennsylvania railroad was due to the fact that the mild weather in this section has enabled the road to move double the amount of freight usually transported at this time of the year and thus made unnecessary the employment of the usual large force of men. The favorable weather has made repairs and upkeep of equipment a much easier task.

Representatives of the Woman Voters Anti Suffrage party have notified George A. Glynn, chairman of the Republican state committee, that they will appear before the executive committee of the state committee and demand representation on the state committee. They also plan to make formal protest against the alleged activities of National Chairman Will H. Hays in favor of the passage of the federal suffrage amendment.

New York state women who entered industry on account of war conditions have "made good" and have earned consideration in future plans of employers, in the opinion of Miss Nellie Swartz, chief of the bureau of Women Industry of the state industrial commission, expressed in a report made public in Albany. Despite the good showing made by the women, the pay which they received was, in most cases, lower than that of the men.

Speaking for the grocers of Buffalo, U. F. Jehle and J. F. Stark appeared before the state senate codes committee urging passage of the Dunnigan bill which would prohibit the exposure for sale of any property on Sunday, other than delicatessen during limited hours and, add soft drinks and auto supplies to articles that may be sold and make other provisions. Grocers of New York, Brooklyn, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica and all the important cities of the state advocated a strictly "close" Sunday.

F. R. Utter, state fiscal supervisor, has reported to the legislature that the 19 institutions over which he exercises control, having a population of 10,000, during the last year saved more than 1,000,000 pounds of flour meats and sugar and reduced the consumption of coal more than 6,000 tons, notwithstanding that it was of a poorer grade than a year ago. These institutions in the last year spent $4,000,000 for all purposes, and were very active in war work of all kinds, inmates contributing to the Rer Cross, doing knitting and helping in other ways to win the war.

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