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(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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WATER SUPPLY FOR NEW YORK CITY.

A meeting of the New Aqueduct Commission was held in New York, August 8, at which the Commissioner of Public Works presented a report describing three proposed plans for increasing the water supply of the city.

The third plan was the construction of two aqueducts, one below the present Croton Dam and another above the dam, the object being to add to the present means of delivering the present storage supply and to increase the supply from sources not now utilized.

But the plan that appeared to find the most favor among the members of the commission, was that of Mr. Isaac Newton, the Chief Engineer of the Croton Water Works, a plan which has been indorsed by seven of the most prominent hydraulic engineers in the country.

The additional watershed thus utilized will be 23 square miles, and the estimated daily increase of water over the present supply will be about 20,000,000 gallons, making a minimum supply for the city of 250,000,000 gallons.

THE CARSON FOOTPRINTS.

Dr. D. W. Harkness read a lengthy paper before the San Francisco Academy of Sciences, on August 6, on the foot marks found in the quarry at Carson, Nevada, some of which resemble those of a biped and have been referred to prehistoric man.

To this principal objection, and other minor ones, Dr. Harkness gives a series of descriptions of the padded surfaces of walkers, from wading birds to springing quadrupeds, and shows that while the bipedal tracks are no less than 400 in number in a series of eight, representing probably so many individuals, they are all similar in character.

Dr. Harkness' conclusion is that the tracks are those of progenitors of the present human race, and he has given them the title of the "Nevada Man"—Homo Nevadaensis.

HARD WOOD FLOORING.

The use of beech, birch, and maple has been restricted to a few specific purposes, but the example of the builders of the new Flint Mill at Fall River, in flooring with these woods, will probably be followed by others.

dried at a heat not sufficient to vaporize its contained oil, makes a durable and evenly-wearing floor. This cheaply estimated wood is really elegant also for furniture purposes.

The New York Evening Post says that the new building of the Pacific Mills at Lawrence, Mass., is to be floored with hard wood, some 300,000 feet to be used, and that other mills throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, have also ordered this hard wood flooring.

HOW GRANITE COLUMNS ARE POLISHED.

The word "granite" generally conveys the idea of roughness, coarseness, and solidity. The idea of finish, smoothness, and polish does not, in the popular mind, belong to the material. But most kinds of granite are susceptible of a beautiful and almost faultless surface finish.

Granite columns, vases, and similar cylindrical ornaments are polished in a lathe. This differs but little from an ordinary machinist's lathe, except that a continuous bed is not necessary to hold the lathe heads, that the spindle of the foot-stock revolves as well as that of the head stock.

To center and swing a column in the lathe the stone has a square recess cut each end, into which is fitted a block of cast iron with round hole through its center. The place of this block is found by means of a cross of wood with sliding arms on each of the four limbs of the cross.

Back of the lathe is a wall of plank against which rest the ends of a number of iron blocks, three or four inches diameter, long enough to project over the column and to have their rear ends resting against the bulkhead or wall.

A trough runs under the column its entire length, and from it an attendant shovels beach sand and water on the revolving column, the blocks with their concave faces acting as grinders, just as the hinge clamps of the machinists are used in polishing a turned shaft.