

liters of wine from raisins, and twenty-five liters of Italian or Spanish wine.

The sugar industry has progressed so rapidly in the last twenty years that it is obliged to moderate its production to avoid a return of the crisis brought on by the over production of 1895 and 1896. When the needs of the country did not exceed 95,000 tons, the sugar mills were producing 170,000 tons yearly. The stock on hand one time reached 165,000 tons. The sugar syndicate could not keep up the prices and dispose of the excess of its production abroad except by means of different legislative measures, for which it obtained the vote of Congress (establishment of a protective tariff and export premiums). If the cost price of Argentine sugar does not permit its entering normally the foreign markets, it is at least sure of the home market, thanks to the essentially protective duties.

Manufacturing industries of products other than purely agricultural ones are less developed in the Argentine Republic. Nevertheless there is a strong tendency toward their establishment. In the city of Buenos Ayres alone there are 2,928 factories or workshops, among which are to be remarked 207 jewelry and watch-making factories, 182 furniture factories, 151 liquor distilleries, 89 carriage factories, 85 for the manufacture of wagons and carts, 66 for boots, 26 for hats, 22 for gloves, 25 for shirts and collars, 13 for artificial flowers, 27 for iron beds, 3 for safes, 6 for canned goods, 4 breweries, etc.

#### BUYERS' GUIDE.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Mr. George H. Hees, chairman of the Tariff Committee, made a number of valuable suggestions looking to the trade of Canada with other countries, and particularly to the advantages which would accrue from the presence of a trade commissioner in London, who should be prepared to intelligently answer all enquiries regarding the manufactured products of Canada, and to give the addresses of the manufacturers producing them. His suggestion was that there should be an alphabetical list of manufacturers, with an enumeration of their products, grouped according to the articles made, an arrangement which would be of much assistance to buyers.

In our opinion the suggestion is a most excellent one, and it is our pleasure to inform our readers that such a book, *The Buyers' Guide of Canada*, is already on the market, and quite available to any who may desire to possess it. It is a book containing some 488 pages, in cloth binding. It is a complete index, containing the addresses of more than ten thousand Canadian manufacturers, every one of whom have stationary plants operated by steam, electric or water power; and it also contains the names of more than 22,000 articles produced by these manufacturers, alphabetically arranged, the names of the manufacturers being given under each article enumerated. The book was compiled by one of the most experienced men in Canada, and should be in the hands of every manufacturer as well as every buyer who desires accurate knowledge concerning Canadian manufactured products. Fuller particulars will be found in an advertisement in page 39. The book can be had on application to THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

United States Consul Hughes, at Coburg, Germany, writes to his Government as follows:—

Up to the present time, Germany has imported each year from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 worth of American petroleum. This industry, however, seems to be threatened somewhat by the introduction of acetylene as an illuminant, in a convenient and safe form, for house, store and other uses. This has resulted from the low price at which calcium carbide is being produced here, and also from the rise in the cost of petroleum in the German markets.

A couple of years ago a very flourishing Canadian industry was the manufacture of acetylene gas machines, but such machines are now practically unsaleable because calcium carbide cannot be had in sufficient quantities to operate them.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, of which Prof. F. R. Hutton is secretary, with head office at 12 W. 31st street, New York City, have sent us a copy of their twenty-first catalogue, second edition, which contains the names and addresses of all the members of the society, the summary showing that there are of all classes a total membership of 2,064. The objects of the Society are to promote the arts and sciences connected with engineering and mechanical construction by means of meetings for social intercourse and the reading and discussion of professional papers, and to circulate by means of publications among its members the information thus obtained. The roster shows that there are 113 foreign members, of whom thirty-seven reside in Great Britain and twelve in Canada, among whom is Mr. W. T. Bonner, of Babcock & Wilcox, Montreal.

We are in receipt of an enquiry from a large general mercantile concern in India for names of manufacturers of oil and gasoline motor carriages. This is a trade that should be cultivated.

The manufacture of calcium carbide in commercial quantities found its inception in Canada, and soon after its introduction the manufacture of acetylene lighting plants in this country was begun and soon assumed very gratifying proportions. But for causes which we are not at present prepared to discuss, the production of carbide, never sufficiently large to meet the current demand, began to decrease, and at this time we are face to face with the fact that the use of acetylene lighting plants is being discontinued, and the manufacture of them abandoned, simply because the carbide cannot be had. There is no good reason why carbide should not be produced in Canada in quantities sufficient to meet all demands, and at prices which should encourage its use. The industry is quite sufficiently protected by a high tariff duty which should be greatly reduced or removed if the article cannot be produced here, with the view of importing it from Germany or the United States. In fact the carbide manufacturers in Germany have recently been suffering from the exceedingly low prices prevailing in that country, caused by active competition. The acetylene gas industry there is a very important one, there being at present in the Empire more than 200,000 plants producing acetylene gas. Many of the smaller towns are lighted by it, and it is also used for lighting railroad passenger cars. The production of calcium carbide in Germany last year was equivalent to about 9,500,000 gallons of petroleum.