

NO USE FOR THE METRIC SYSTEM.

From Cassier's Magazine.

Why should we change these units to adopt one which agrees with neither of them, and which, at best, was originally the visionary scheme of a congress of philosophers? We have little to learn or gain by adopting the measures of Continental Europe. Three-quarters, or nearly so, of the commerce and traffic of the world is carried on by some form of appliance, whether moved by wind, water, or steam, which has been built from English measures by some English-speaking people, and the proportion is all the time increasing.

Why adopt another and more inconvenient system, which will render all systems of screw threads, gear teeth, foundry patterns, shop drawings, etc., obsolete, as well as shelving the most valuable collection of mechanical literature in the world, and requiring all its tables to be translated into a foreign measure, merely to obtain the advantages of a decimal system, which, as I have shown, we already have to all intents and purposes in a far more convenient form than we should obtain from the introduction of the metre and its derivatives? Besides these two unit measures—the inch and the foot—we also use the cubic yard, in civil engineering, for excavations and earthwork, but for mechanical purposes we could get along very well with no other unit but the inch.

THE DINGLEY DOLLAR.

From The New York World.

There are two ways of giving the people 50-cent dollars.

1. To stamp 50 cents' worth of silver with a dollar mark.

2. To tax all the necessaries—food, fuel, clothing and shelter—so that the people will have to pay a dollar for what they can now get for 50 cents.

Does Mr. Dingley think that the people rejected the 50-cent dollar of the Silver Trust because they wanted the 50-cent dollar of Dingley and the Hanna "campaign contributors?"

—An increase of 44 per cent. was made in the production of aluminum in the United States in 1896 over that of the previous year. The total production then of 650 tons was about one-third that of the whole world, but it

will be considerably exceeded this year. Application of the metal to uses for bicycle sundries and appliances is the principal reason for the increased production.

—Dr. Lemoine, whose paleontological discoveries have won him fame because they bear upon the most ancient known mammals, those of the lower Eocene strata of the environs of Rheims, has applied the X-rays to the study of fossil remains. The photographs were made in the laboratory of Dr. Reny at the medical school, with the assistance of M. Contremoulins. M. Gaudry exhibits in the author's behalf some truly admirable prints, notable both for clearness of outline and for the way in which they show planes of different depth, as well as for the facility they offer for the examination of all the interior details—the structure of the bones, the nutrient passages, and the crowns and roots of the teeth. An examination of these photographs shows that it is now possible to study the cerebral cavities in an intact skull, and to observe the two superposed dentitions in jaws whose bony walls remain entire. The special source of bony fragments—whether from birds of spongy tissue, reptiles of compact tissue, the vertebrae of fishes, or the bones of mammals—is perceived at once on examination of the structure. The shells of fossils lend themselves equally well to this kind of experiment, the shape appearing with marvellous clearness.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, April 15th, 1897.

DAIRY PRODUCTS AND PROVISIONS.—Trade conditions are fairly satisfactory. All shipments of dairy butter of the best quality are well received; the market here readily absorbs them. Stocks have not accumulated within the past week. Butter of inferior quality, however, finds little demand, and is difficult to move, except at a considerable sacrifice in price. Creamery is more plentiful. Prices are about as quoted last week. Dairy butter in rolls is worth 14 to 15c.; in prints, 15 to 16c. per lb. In tubs creamery is quoted at 18 to 19c., and prints at 19 to 20c. per lb. The cheese trade is very quiet and the feeling is somewhat easier. The weakness in the market has been caused by more liberal receipts of

fodder cheese. We quote new cheese 9½ to 10c., and autumn makes 11 to 11½c. per lb. The egg market is somewhat firmer. Easter consumption is always large, and receipts during the week from country points have fallen off somewhat. This is due to the operations of picklers who are making purchases at country points, prices ranging from 7 to 8c. per dozen.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.—There is a somewhat firmer tendency in the market this week. As we noted some weeks ago a number of the packers had closed their factories for the season, believing that the receipts for the year were about completed. But later developments in the market have shown this view to be somewhat in error. More than the usual season's deliveries have been made during the past two weeks, and as supplies were in excess of butchers' requirements prices declined. On the fall of values a number of the winter packers opened their factories again and are now at work. Provisions are very firm, and there is an active demand for most lines. A number of merchants on the street report the movements in provisions as larger than at the same season of the year for a number of years past.

GRAIN.—The wheat markets have been somewhat depressed since our last report. As compared with last week's quotations Ontario winter wheat has declined one cent per bushel and Manitoba hard two cents per bushel. Ontario spring wheat remains unchanged. The unusually early opening of lake navigation has been a bear feature in the market. Reports from the country indicate that the autumn crops have passed the winter in fairly good condition. Barley is quiet and slow, quotations having been quoted one to two cents per bushel lower than a week ago. Comparatively large shipments of barley were made to the United States in March in anticipation of the higher duties proposed under the Dingley Bill. Oats are steady at 19 to 20c. per bushel; peas remain unchanged; rye is nominal; corn continues as last reported.

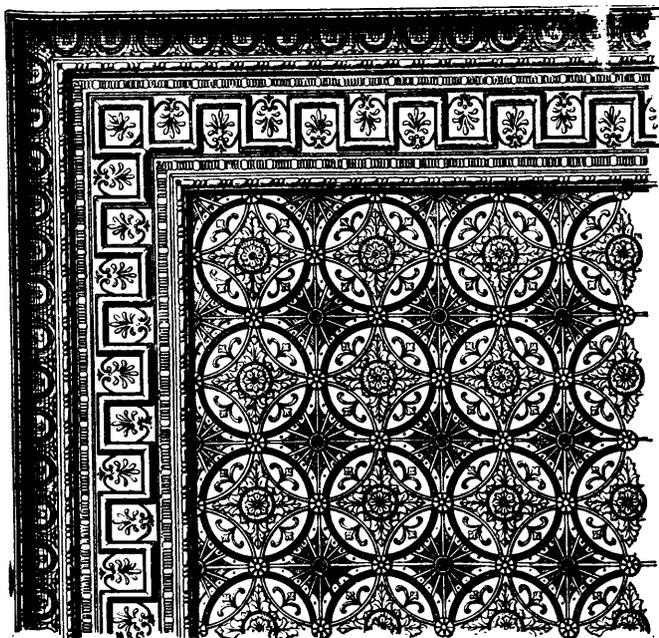
GREEN FRUITS.—Trade is now "between seasons" and the movement in green fruits is confined within rather narrow limits. There is a moderate demand for oranges. We quote: Valencias, 420's, case \$4 00 to 4 25; Valencias, 714's, large case, \$4 75 to 5 00; Valencias, large 420's, \$5 75 to 6 00; California navels, 96's, \$3 40; 112's, \$3 50; 126's, \$4 00. Lemons are in rather poor demand. Prices are low and values should be in favor of a large consumption. Recent cargoes of Sicily fruits arriving in New York have shown very poor quality, and auctions have brought low prices. We quote: Messina, fancy, 300's, 360's, per box, \$2.25 to 2.50, five box lots 25c. per box less. Trade in bananas remains unchanged. Extra fancy fruit is quoted from \$1.50 to 2.00 per bunch; seconds, \$1.25 to 1.50 per bunch. Small quantities are arriving from day to day, with quotations changing according to supply.

GROCERIES.—Business is dragging. Few orders are being received by the wholesale houses, and these are confined to small lots. In dried fruits there is little movement, except in certain California fruits, for which there is a moderate request. Sugars are firm, with 3½c. the lowest quotation in yellow, and 4½c. quoted for XXX Acadia, and 4 7-16c. for Redpath and St. Lawrence. Canned goods find fairly active demand.

HARDWARE AND METALS.—During the past two weeks the volume of movement in shelf hardware has not been as satisfactory as during the previous ten days. There is, however, a fair demand for spades, shovels, garden tools, harvest tools and other spring specialties. For chain the enquiry has also been good. Wire nails have been in fairly active request. The demand for rope has been good. Ordinary fencing wire is going out very freely. For barbed wire larger orders have been received the past week. A change has been made in the price of cut nails, which are now quoted, as will be seen from our "Prices Current," on a basis of \$2.25 with the list extras also subjected to alteration. In wire nails, the discount has been changed and is now 80 and 10. Trade in metals has improved somewhat, and in a number of instances there is an active demand for stock. Galvanized iron, by way of import orders, and orders from stock, is in active demand. Sheet iron, ingot tin and tin plate are also in fairly active request. The only business done in Canada plate is in the way of booking orders for import. Prices of metals are ruling firm without change. The

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