

service are in process of construction. Twelve steamers of dimensions suitable to the Canadian canals and strong enough for ocean voyages are already on the lakes, besides the four to leave Conneaut in November, which are not expected to return. Next spring there will be on the lakes twenty-seven steamers suitable for voyages between lake and European ports. Some, or all, of the new steamers will carry 3,600 tons in deep water and 2,400 on less than fourteen feet draft, but the four to sail in November will carry only 1,000 tons each through the canal, another 1,500 tons of cargo being put on board at Montreal. Of the fifteen new steamers the American Steel & Wire Co., is having four built, and it already has two steamers of the same class. Another four are building for a grain shipping firm in Chicago. Billets and sheet bars will make up the cargoes of the four steamers to sail this month, and the fact that a part of the cargo is to be unloaded at Cardiff and Swansea indicates that Welsh tin plate will be made from American steel.

Our definite good thing we conclude from Lord Robert's cable on the South African Contract question. Whatever may have been in contemplation, whatever may have been already done, whatever chances were on foot to divert orders to America, will be promptly discountenanced, and we may be sure that, as a result of the present agitation, if vigilance be not relaxed, the British manufacturer will in future have a fair chance in South Africa. It is unlikely that a duplicate of the Athara Bridge will be planted on South African soil. So far as the military authorities are concerned, indeed, it is pretty safe to say that the utmost care will be taken to avoid any appearance of favoring foreign firms. We may expect the most punctilious observance of the etiquette of inviting tenders and placing contracts. Even were they so disposed, they can scarcely afford to quarrel with the industrial community just now. What we feel a good deal less sure about is the action of private firms. It is all very well for the attitude of Lord Robert's staff to be absolutely correct, but if private firms are going to order abroad the goods that they know full well the military authorities require with the sure and certain hope of having them commandeered on arrival, we fail to see where British firms will benefit from the scrupulous punctiliousness of the military authorities. Let us hope that this will not prove to be the case.—Commercial Intelligence.

Canada can hardly find consolation in the facts and figures furnished by the trade returns, as given by her own as well as by our statistical bureaus. She put her twenty-five per cent. preferential tariff, in favor of Great Britain, up to 33½ per cent. Our answer was to increase sales from \$61,649,741, in 1896 to \$101,642,950 in 1899. Of course, all things being equal, Canada can count on finding British favor. Her exports to Great Britain went up to \$99,000,000 in 1899 from \$66,000,000 in 1896.—The Manufacturer, Philadelphia.

Although England was the birthplace of the portland cement industry, that country no longer has a monopoly of it. The annual production of portland cement in England is now between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000 barrels; that of France barely 3,500,000 barrels; while Germany's output is from

18,000,000 to 20,000,000 barrels. The United States produced 5,200,000 barrels, and imported 2,300,000 last year.

P. T. Barnum is quoted as having said: "If you have \$10,000 to put to good use, put \$1,000 aside for the article you wish to sell and use the other nine for advertising it. I can out talk any man but a printer. The man that can stick type and in the morning talk to 10,000 people whilst I am talking to one is the man I am afraid of, and I want to be his friend."

The official announcement of the total population of the United States for 1900 is 76,295,220, of which 74,627,907 are contained in the forty-five States representing approximately the population to be used for apportionment purposes. The total population in 1890, with which the aggregate population of the present census should be compared, was 63,069,756. Taking the 1890 population as a basis, there has been a gain in population of 13,225,464 during the past ten years, representing an increase of nearly twenty-one per cent. The tabulated statement shows that the population of New York is 7,268,009 against 5,997,853 in 1890.

In the issue of THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER of October 5, was an editorial having reference to the imports of manufactures of gutta percha and India rubber into Canada from Great Britain and United States respectively, during the year 1899, compiled with care in this office from the Canadian Trade and Navigation Returns, and it is a coincidence that our esteemed contemporary, Commercial Intelligence, of London, in its issue of October 27 published an editorial on the same subject in large part identical with ours. Canadian mails are nowadays carried with great celerity to London.

Mr. R. Fergus Ritchie, of Messrs. Ritchie Bros., general engineers and proprietors of the Auburn Works, Auburn, New South Wales, bringing kind messages from friends in Australia, made a brief visit to THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER last week. Mr. Ritchie, accompanied by Mrs. Ritchie, has been making an extended tour of Europe and the British Kingdom, and having seen the sights at the Paris Exposition and many of the American cities and centres of trade, after a brief visit to Toronto are now on their return to their antipodean home via Vancouver. Mr. Ritchie says that in the more or less distant future Australia will be a more populous and important country than even the United States.

Discussing the recent Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire held in London, and the remark of Hon. Joseph Chamberlain to the effect that the only form of Imperial Zollverein which would receive favor in Great Britain would be free trade within the Empire with differential duties against strangers, the British and South African Export Gazette, of London, speaking of what it calls a "Free Trade Counterblast," says—

On the opposite side, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, by its speciously worded resolution, expends the whole force of its restricted construction of Free Trade principles against this view. Its resolution runs—"This Congress, rejoicing in the growing evidences of unity between the