

DUTY REDUCTION VOICES SCARSGOING MAKERS

Government's Action Will Cause
Closing of Canadian Plants,
They Say—Can't Stand the
Competition, and Claim That
American Output Will Kill
Canadian Trade.

Local men who are interested in the manufacture and sale of cement are very pessimistic as to the outcome of the government's decision to reduce the duty on American cement to 25 cents per barrel, from June 15, until Oct. 31. All claim that it will result in the closing of the Canadian mills in view of American competition, and that Canadian markets will be flooded with the product from the other side.

Alfred Rogers said that mills owned by ten companies, which he represented, would have to be closed down as a result of the better rates which could be offered by American firms. As first Mr. Rogers could not believe that the duty was to be reduced to 25 cents per barrel through the Dominion, but he was soon convinced. He predicted that all the mills in Ontario would have to stop operating. The cement merger might be able to withstand this assault, he stated. There was, however, no hope for the smaller concerns.

Will Flood Market.
It was pointed out by the local cement men that the duty in the past has been sufficient to hold back the American manufacturer. Cement is now selling at 60 cents per barrel on the other side, while the Canadian is at 85 cents per barrel, and 45 cents for freight the cement from the States can be placed on the market here at a cost of \$1.35 per barrel or 15 cents lower than the present market rate. Although the reduction in the duty is only for the period between June 15 and Oct. 31, it may as well be all the year around, as the Canadian mills are only able to operate for about six months in the year owing to weather conditions, he said.

"The Canadian market will be flooded by the excess product of the American cement mills," continued Mr. Rogers. "So much cement has been produced over there that a number of mills have closed down in the last year and cement has been a drug on the market. Cement is being sold almost at the cost of production, and that cost for a number of reasons is less than the cost of production in Ontario."

Coal and Labor Cheaper.
Coal is cheaper on the other side and so is labor. With the duty reduced all the year, while the Canadian mills only operate during the summer, Mr. Rogers' opinion is that the American mills will be able to produce at a lower cost than the Canadian mills.

He has received many requests and urgent appeals from boards of trade and other officials of the Dominion, asking that partial or total reduction of customs duties be granted during the remainder of the season, as great financial loss and suspension of business was threatened.

Senator W. C. Edwards, president of the Canada Cement Manufacturers Association, said that the trouble was due to inadequate transportation facilities, and not to a shortage of the product. "There are over a million barrels of cement in our bins ready for the west," said he.

Grand Fireworks Display
Concert by Massed Bands and Diving Horses at Hanlan's.

King and Queen, the famous diving horses, which proved such a great drawing attraction to ladies and children last season, arrived in the city yesterday, and will give the wonderful exhibitions of diving at Hanlan's Point, free, every afternoon and evening. These beautiful white horses, the most magnificent specimens of their kind in the world, were captured in the Everglades of Florida, where their parents have been running and swimming wild probably for centuries. Like their ancestors, King and Queen are as much at home in the water as on terra firma. From a platform on a fifty feet high they dive gracefully into the lagoon, swim around for a while, and then return to the landing place. The representatives of the Shenectady Fireworks Co. of Shenectady, N. Y., arrived in the city yesterday, and are busy preparing for the magnificent display of pyrotechnics which they will give in the stadium to-morrow evening. This will be one of the most lavish exhibitions of fireworks seen in Toronto for many a day; there are 25 carousels and brilliant set pieces, which can only be seen from inside the grounds; in addition to this, there will be a grand concert by the massed bands of the 4th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 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