

The Iron Trade.

PITTSBURGH.

IRON PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE YEAR
1881—PITTSBURGH'S EXPORTS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES—
SLIGHT ADVANCE IN WINDOW GLASS—BOTTLES AND VIALS
UNCHANGED—NAILS AS BEFORE—QUOTATIONS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

PITTSBURGH, March 13, 1882.

Mr. James M. Swank, the Secretary of the American Iron and Steel Association, publishes in the last issue of the *Bulletin* of the Association full statistics of the production of pig iron in the United States last year, together with the total stocks in the hands of makers or their agents at the close of the year. From these it appears that the production was 4,641,564 tons of 2,000 pounds, against 4,295,414 tons in 1880, and 3,070,875 tons in 1879. Of the total produced last year, 2,268,264 was made with bituminous coal, 1,734,462 with anthracite, and 638,838 with charcoal. Pittsburg's quota of the pig iron made was 385,453 tons, compared with 300,497 tons in 1880, and 267,315 tons in 1879. Of the 4,641,564 tons made in the whole country last year, Pennsylvania made nearly one-half—2,190,786 tons. Ohio came next, with 710,546 tons, followed by New York and Illinois, with 359,519 and 251,781 tons respectively. Pig iron was made in Colorado, California, and Washington Territory for the first time last year. At the close of 1881 there were 487 furnaces in the blast in the entire country, and 259 out, making a total of 746 furnaces. At the close of 1879, there were 446 furnaces blowing and 255 cold, making a total of 701. There were 25 new furnaces erected in 1881, and 23 commenced but not completed, while 12 were abandoned.

In connection with the foregoing, the following table of imports of foreign iron into the U.S. is of especial interest. The tons are gross:

	Stock in bond Dec. 31, 1880.	Imports in 1881.	Stock in bond Dec. 31, 1881.	Apparent consumption in 1881.
Pig iron, gross tons.....	164,408	464,480	10,000	618,838
Bar iron	10,071	42,696	5,108	54,664
Band, hoop and scroll iron.	2,240	738	218	2,760
Iron rails.....	35,686	12,233	5,094	42,715
Sheet iron.....	2,272	7,206	1,162	8,316
Steel rails.....	34,267	222,597	10,180	248,684
Old scrap iron.....	172,510	134,917	8,772	298,655
Anchors and chains.....	42	1,357	41	1,358
Totals	428,441	886,174	40,570	1,274,045

Isabella Furnace No. 1, in this city, made 6087 tons 1072 pounds during the five weeks ended February 25, being a weekly average of 1207½ tons. The largest week's production was 1270 tons 948 lbs. The tons were of 2268 pounds, and the furnace is 20 feet across the back and 75 feet high. No furnace outside of Pittsburgh ever made such a large production in the same length of time.

A great many of the products of Pittsburgh find a market in foreign countries. The proprietors of the Fulton Bell Foundry say that not only are their bells rung in every state in the Union, but that they occasionally ship one abroad. Not long ago they sent one weighing 850 pounds to Chefoo, China. Before that they shipped one weighing 300 pounds to Wingpo, China. Both bells were for Presbyterian mission stations. There are five iron-hull steamboats, built by Messrs Rees & Thorn, running on the rivers of South America. Besides these, they have one ready for shipping (in sections) and another ready to go on the stocks. The first is intended for the Magdalena river trade, in the U.S. of Columbia, and the other for the Zull river trade in Venezuela. The same firm also have a man in Russia building a steamboat hull for trade on the Neva river. The machinery is being made here. Speer & Sons, makers of plows, send these implements to Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, Australia, and other countries. Another plow firm here (a new concern) are also sending a great many plows to Cuba. Our manufacturers of glass tableware also ship large quantities of their goods to a great many foreign coun-

tries, and the Rochester Tumbler Company (the largest concern of the kind in the world) ship tumblers even to Yokohama, Japan. Messrs. Smith & Goldthrop have a contract to light the streets and plazas of Vera Cruz, Mexico, with gas manufactured from petroleum by a process patented by one of the firm. Our refined oil goes to almost every part of the world.

The Western Nail Association, the Western Vial and Bottle Association, and the Western Window Glass Association, held meetings in this city last week. The latter association made a slight advance in prices. The others made no changes.

There has been such a prolonged quietude in the pig iron trade here that prices of some kinds have given way a little, and they may now be fairly quoted as follows:—Neutral mill, from native ore, \$25 to 25.50; cinder-mixed red-short (mill), \$26; Bessemer, \$29; No. 1 foundry, \$27.50 to \$28; No. 2 do., \$26.50 to \$27.50 (all four months). Muck bar is also lower, and \$45 cash is top price. Manufactured iron holds its own. Bar, 2.50c.; No. 24 sheet, 4.30c.; tank, 3.30c.; C. H. No. 1 boiler plate, 5½c.; homogeneous steel do., 6½c.; hoop iron, for common barrel hoops, 3.10c. to 3.30c.; lighter sizes, 3.20c. to 5.10c. All 60 days or 2 per cent. off for cash.—Nails unchanged, demand fair, and stocks throughout west reported small: 10d. to 60d., \$3.40, 60 days or 2 per cent. off for cash, with an abatement of 10 cents per keg on lots of 250 kegs.—Gas and steam pipe, 60 per cent. discount on small and 60 and 5 per cent. on large lots; discounts on boiler tubes, 40 to 40 and 5 per cent.; oil-well casing, 75c. net, and tubing 25c. net.—Steel unchanged.—Steel rails are nominally \$58, but works are full of orders up to August.—Railway spikes, 3.15c. per lb. 30 days; splice bars, 2.6c. per lb.; track bolts, 3.75c. to 4.00c. for square nut and 4½c. for hexagon, cash f.o.b. Pittsburgh. No. 1 wrought scrap, \$35 to \$38 per gross ton; old car wheels, \$31; car axles, \$44 to \$45; American leaf springs, \$44; foreign do., \$42 to \$43. Lead: bar, 6½c., with 4 per cent. off; pipe, 6½c., 10 per cent. off; sheets, 6½c., 10 per cent. off; drop shot, 7c., 1 to 4 per cent. off; buck shot, 8c., 1 to 4 per cent. off. White Lead, 7c. to 7½c. per pound. Linseed oil, 63c. per gallon by the barrel; boiled 66c. Connellsville coke, \$1.75 @ \$2.00 per ton of 2000 pounds, f. o. b. cars at the works.

PHILADELPHIA.

PRICES IN FAVOUR OF BUYERS—FOREIGN MARKETS STEADY—PROBABILITIES AS TO CONSUMPTION—IRON QUOTATIONS—RAILROAD, TARIFF, AND LOCAL INTERESTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

PHILADELPHIA, March 14, 1882.

Buyers still have the advantage in the iron and steel markets east. The improvement in trade has not been marked. There have been floods in the west and high water east. The correspondence to hand from buyers and travelling agents shows a generally hopeful view of the commercial and industrial situation. The dullness in trade of the past six weeks has not reduced quotations a whit, and on the contrary the actual selling prices in some branches are higher than two weeks ago.

The foreign markets are steady and firm. The imports of iron and steel at Boston, New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia do not show up as very alarming. American iron makers are better able to meet demand than at any time since last summer, as they have been keeping as clear as possible of heavy contracts in order to profit by any advance in prices which might come. Buyers have been holding off, hoping to profit by lower prices which might come from increased imports. Thus both sides have been avoiding business. Neither side has given in. Foreign imports do not help or hurt anybody, and probably will not. Domestic prices run along very evenly. The entire situation is satisfactory, although in two or three branches the satisfaction is not overflowing.

The fact is the expansion of iron-making facilities is going on at a greater rate than is comprehended. Every few days brings intelligence of another furnace going in blast or a new mill projected or starting up. The latest is one fifteen miles above the city. Several blast furnaces will add their product to the April supply. The effect of this expansion, sooner or later, will be to increase the supply and overtake the demand,