

the world's history. They are, indeed, factors in the progression of humanity and civilization whose value only the historian of the future will be able to appreciate at its proper worth. But for our present purpose they are of little account, save in so far as they serve to indicate our point; and the growth and development of one trade, while it may more than compensate for the decline of another, does not prevent us from regretting that decline. The blacksmith is among the earliest pioneers of civilization. He it was who dealt the finishing blow to the Stone Age; and, during all the intervening centuries, his hammer has struck out the true ring of progress from anvil and iron. And now, in his turn, he is supplanted by a mightier than he in the Age of Steam.

Nothing, perhaps, will more clearly indicate the state into which the blacksmith's art has fallen than the exhibition held during this month under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, in England. This City Company was incorporated first by prescription in the year 1325, and subsequently confirmed by several charters, and had for its object the fostering of the craft after which it was named and the proper protection and encouragement of its members. The influence then exercised must have been considerable, but in the end Progress has proved too strong, and while the company retains all its accumulated prosperity, the craft from which its members were originally drawn has sunk into comparative insignificance. This is properly considered not to be past remedy. It has been a question of supply and demand. The general work of the blacksmith has been for the most part taken out of his hands by the use of machinery and the cheaper production thus rendered possible. He is replaced by the engineer, and it must be admitted that the world has gained considerably by the change. But for all that there is no reason why both should not flourish, and the Blacksmith's Company, both in its corporate capacity and through the generosity of private members, deserves praise for the manner in which of late years it has sought to restore something of the glories of the past.

That part of the blacksmith's work which has been most frequently handed down to us, and that which reflects the greatest credit on him, is the fashioning of iron by hammering. In the Middle Ages, when the blacksmith was at the zenith of his fame, the hammer and the anvil were practically his own tools, and by them he wrought all the metal-work of that period which is now extant. In the last two centuries, however, the simplicity of those tools was scorned, and as a consequence the art has lost almost all its exponents. Hammered iron is said, by a unanimous verdict of experts, to be the only form of that metal by which beauty and artistic taste can be expressed. The other processes, so common to-day, doubtless serve our turn. But for artistic and decorative purposes, the hammer alone can yield the best results. Unfortunately, however, this style of working is now fallen greatly into disuse. The Blacksmith's Company recognizes this fact, and one of the principal objects aimed at in the London Exhibition already alluded to was the encouragement of workers in the production of hammered ironwork. In this respect it is to be hoped that progress is being made. An art, so many magnificent specimens of which are handed down to us from former times, should not be allowed to die. The mistake is that it is not always recognized as being at once an art and a trade. It is not to be expected that workers in hammered iron can turn out articles with the facility of machines turning out cheap novelties. Nor, on the other hand, must a too exalted idea be taken of the importance of this work. Hammered ironwork appeals chiefly to the rich and cultured classes,

because they have at once the money to buy and the instinct to appreciate. Here, however, is a sufficiently large class to cater for. Of late years technical education, free libraries, and similar institutions have done much to develop the taste of the artisan. With better knowledge he has learned to take increased interest in his work.

The above article is from an editorial in the Birmingham *Hardware Trade Journal*. In the same paper we find a description of the work submitted for exhibition and award. The judges of the exhibits at the April show were Sir William Arrol, Mr. J. Farrard Clarke, and Mr. R. B. Evered. The present prime warden of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths is Mr. Pearce Morrison. The attendance at Ironmongers' Hall during the three days that the exhibits were on view numbered nearly 4,000 persons.

The examples of hammered iron work exhibited were divided into three classes. There was a class for work sent in by apprentices and youths, and another for the work of journeymen, while the third class consisted of an interesting loan collection.

The work sent in for competition reached in some cases a high order of merit, and included such articles of household use or ornament as fire-screens, lamp stands, electroliers, candlesticks and candelabras, gas-brackets, and flower stands. Conspicuous for its deft workmanship was the fire-screen made by Mr. Jas. Cook, in the employ of Messrs. Evered & Co., of Drury Lane, an intricate and ornate piece of work, which won the first prize, but was subsequently disqualified owing to its being overweight, the winner being thereby debarred from taking the prize medal which originally accompanied the first prize of £15. Mr. Cook, however, as some consolation for this disqualification, was presented with a special prize of £15 and a certificate of merit entitling his work to rank equal with that which obtained the first prize. Mr. Cook's handiwork was subsequently bought by a private purchaser for £50.

Owing to this mishap the medal went to Mr. Clarence Steer, who had been awarded second prize for a fire-screen of somewhat simpler design than the above; this was a very neat example of what a clever smith can accomplish with his hammer. Bold and simple, and well suited to the metal it was worked in, was the design of the clock-case with which Mr. Chas. Butler took the second prize.

A fine table lamp stand, the work of Mr. Thomas Atkins, carried off the third prize; while an extra prize given by Mr. Pease Morrison was gained by Mr. Henry Tompkins for on electrolier, elaborate in pattern, and very effective and handsome.

In the Youths' and Apprentices' Class, which was divided into three sections, six prizes were awarded, two in each section. The work exhibited in this class comprised, in a good many instances, articles made by lads in their own homes, and bore witness to a considerable amount of skill in the handicraft. Walter James Elwood secured first prize and medal in the first section for a gas bracket, ornamented with hammered iron roses, while the second prize went to Evan Saunders for a panel. In the second section the first prize and medal went to John Henry Oldaker for a candelabra of handsome design. The candelabra that won the second prize was an excellent example of flower work. This was made by John Carter. The first prize in the third section, together with the freedom of the company, was awarded to Arthur George Beaver for an ornamental firescreen, a capital piece of hammer work. The second prize and medal were awarded to Arthur John Hall for a bell-pull. Other excellent examples of work, too numerous to enu-

rate here, were contributed by the younger members of the craft; but special mention may be made of a candelabra and flower stand, the work of William Marshall, and a tripod stand for table lamp, Louis XIV. style, fashioned by William Cunliffe, both ambitious and successful attempts at decorative work.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, July 11, 1894.

ASHES.—A few moderate shipments of 20 and 25-barrel lots have been made to Britain since last writing, but the market is easier at \$4 for No. 1 potash; seconds are in more request and relatively stronger at \$3.65. Of pearl ash there is virtually none here, only four barrels being reported in store, and the price is firmer at \$6. Receipts have been larger than in 1893, figures for six months ending June 30th being 245 barrels ahead of the corresponding period of last year. There are in store at the moment just about 200 barrels of pots.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—There are no big receipts, but stocks are sufficient for all demands. English cement is selling at \$1.90, four mos., ex-wharf in 100-brl. lots; smaller quantities up to \$2.05; Belgian, \$1.75 to 1.85. Firebricks \$14 to 19 per M.; sales at \$13.50 net cash for round lots are reported.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese shipments continue heavy, the figures for last week being 107,468 boxes, as compared with 35,113 boxes

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almost without provocation.

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The Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of shareholders of this Company was held at the Head Office, 2 Toronto Street, on Wednesday, the 11th inst., Mr. Thos. Swinyard, President of the Company, occupying the chair, and Mr. Fred Roper, Secretary and Treasurer, acting as Secretary of the meeting. The Report of the Directors was submitted and unanimously adopted, when the following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year: Thos. Swinyard, Esq., Sir Frank Smith, General Thos. T. Eckert, Chas. A. Tinker, Esq., A. G. Ramsey, Esq., Henry Pollatt, Esq., Hector Mackenzie, Esq., Thos. F. Clark, Esq., and Thos. E. Wood. At a subsequent meeting of the newly elected Board, Mr. Thos. Swinyard was re-appointed President, Sir Frank Smith, Vice-President, and Mr. Fred. Roper, Secretary and Treasurer.

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