persons accounting, as usual, for a very large proportion. Explosions of coal oil lamps and coal oil stoves are numerous, and their frequency seems to point either to the use of inferior oil or to ignorance of the proper handling of such things.

It is to be observed that Messrs. Perry and Poirier remark upon the occurrence of several fires whose origin cannot be accounted for, except through the electric wires used for lighting purposes. "During the last year from this source alone," they say, "we mean the introduction of electric wires in the premises, as far as we have been able to ascertain, the losses by fire have been greater by over one million dollars, than from any other causes." It is of course known that slip-shod wiring of premises in the first place, and neglect by householders of the simplest precautions looking to the safety of lighting by electricity has caused many a fire. But the commissioners go far when they suggest that "these wires afford a source of danger in that they might lead to incendiarism," because there would be, in case of fire from such a cause, no possibility of tracing and detecting the parties who used them to start a fire. We observe that the Fire Committee of the Council have asked for a second water tower, as well as the repair of the first. This is quite necessary for Montreal.

THE REMARKABLE TIN MARKET.

The phenomenal advance in tin has not lost strength, although as was to be expected from so speculative a market prices have been subject to fluctuations. The Glasgow Herald comments editorially upon the situation as follows: "At £111 block tin has made an advance of £25 a ton since the close of last year. This is, by a long way, the highest price reached since 1887-8, the period of the famous copper corner, the operators in which took hold of tin also, and for a time forced it up to the artificial price of £165 to £170 a ton. The average of these phenomenally high years, however, was £111 15s. in 1887 and £117 10s. in 1888. Now, the average of 1898 was only £7? 5s.—so large had been the falling away in ten years—yet the tendency last year was pretty consistently upwards. It is true that there was not very much gained in the first six months, but in the second half a very considerable profit was netted, so that the year, which opened at £62 10s., closed at £86." And again it is stated that "ten years ago production and consumption were about equal. Five years ago the production was 7,000 tons in excess of the consumption. Last year the consumption was 10,000 tons in excess of the production. Whilst the visible stocks at the end of last year were by no means the smallest on record, they show a tremendous drop in two years. The prospect of the present year is of greater consumption than ever, but it may be taken for granted that the high prices now current will stimulate production in all parts of the world. An advance of £25 per ton within a month is, in any case, altogether too sudden to be wholesome, and strong as is the statistical position, it is evident that there is a feverish undercurrent of speculation at work."

THE TEXTILE INTERESTS.

The town of Seaforth is making application to the Ontario Legislature for a private bill to pay $10,000 as a bonus to woolen mills.

The close of the London wool sales last week developed a strong tone throughout and both combing and crossbred wools are stronger to-day than at the opening of the series.

The United States wool market is sized up by The N.Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce as follows: "Manufacturers who visit the market, while complaining of too much uncertainty regarding the future, evidently are taking a more cheerful view of the situation, with the result that they manifest a greater interest in wools suitable to their wants. Sellers of wool, whether broker or dealer, are also basing their hopes upon this and claim that the situation is ripe for a prolonged steady market."

Secretary Hester's New Orleans Cotton Exchange statement, issued Feb. 2nd, covers the monthly movement to January 31. Compared with last year the month is behind in round figures 226,000 bales and ahead of year before last 434,000. The total for January was 1,162,445, against 1,388,394 last year. The movement from the first of September to January 3rd shows at all United States delivery ports, 6,770,899, against 6,072,911 last year. Including ports and interior towns left over from the previous season and the number of bales of the current crop brought into sight during the five months the supply has been 9,140,447, against 8,801,481.

It is reported from Montreal that a syndicate has been formed and registered at St. Hyacinthe to take over and run the mills of the Boas Manufacturing Company. The registration is in the name of J. C. Dussaulles, M.L.A., president of the Bank of St. Hyacinthe, and W. Barclay Stephens, of Montreal. The new syndicate has leased the mills from the old company, and taken over by purchase, the stock in trade, and movable assets, and will continue the manufacture of woolens and knitted goods.

TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

Increases of both foreign imports and foreign exports for January are shown by the port of Toronto this year. The imports were of the value of $2,402,396 and the exports $820,666. In the same month of 1898 the figures were respectively $2,169,729 and $559,408. Of the total imports those dutiable constituted $1,602,546 worth, and free merchandise $779,645; the remaining $20,205 being coin and bullion. We present our usual table of principal dutiable imports:

DUTIABLE IMPORTS.

	Jan. 1899.	Jan. 1898.
Brass, and manufactures of	$ 5,955	4,701
Copper, and manufactures of	1,024	337
Iron and steel, manufactures of	113,693	104,657
Lead, manufactures of	5,531	167
Metals and composition	16,845	14,865
Total metal goods	$143,048	$124,727
Cotton, and manufactures of	$228,591	$296,240
Fancy goods	73,769	91,194
Hats, caps and bonnets	79,646	18,709
Silk, and manufactures of	162,503	118,833
Woolen manufactures	232,064	209,316
Total dry goods	$776,573	$734,292
Books and pamphlets	$ 34,730	$ 23,353
Bicycles, etc.	34,003	31,065
Coal, bituminous	39,165	49,823
Coal, anthracite (free)	83,656	83,779
Drugs and medicines	25,718	21,355
Earthen and chinaware	28,317	19,960
Fruits, green and dried	32,505	27,131
Glass and glassware	25,536	12,006
Gutta Percha	6,985	13,037
Flax	59,073	53,201
Jewelry and watches	23,068	23,954
Leather, and manufactures of	23,289	21,606
Musical instruments	11,767	13,883
Paints and colors	4,797	10,166
Paper, and manufactures of	33,700	32,903
Spirits and wines	6,024	15,657

Increases are general in the above table, the exceptions being jewelry, spirits and wines, paints and colors. Nowhere, however, is there any large increase. It is noticeable that woolen imports are larger and cotton goods smaller.

EXPORTS, PRODUCE OF CANADA.

	Jan. 1899.	Jan. 1898.
Produce of the mine	$ 186	425
Produce of the fisheries	....	9
Produce of the forest	1,342	1,199
Produce of the field	211,861	136,829
Animals, and their produce	405,662	245,645
Manufactures	166,569	150,964
Total	$785,620	$535,071

Exports of Canadian products are greater in almost every department, field products and dead meats being the most conspicuous items. Grains show a fair variety; wheat, barley, oats,