

to \$22.75) per picul. This decline is evidently due to the growing dearth of camphor trees, while the rate of wages and the expense of manufacture in general have been greatly increased of late. Under these circumstances, most of the local manufacturers have suspended work and have abandoned the field almost entirely to the Formosan product, which is the best to be found in Japan.

### AMERICAN BICYCLE COMPETITION IN ENGLAND.

The following communication recently appeared in the Birmingham Daily Mail :

"I think it is about time some of our cycle manufacturers woke up from their slumbers and realized the state of the cycle trade. It is all very fine for them to go on in this old-fashioned way, and say that they don't fear American competition. But America can and does compete with them in their own markets. Many Birmingham firms to-day have expensive automatic machines standing idle, waiting for the next season to come round. Now, when the cycle season is over in America, they start these machines on such components as small screws, nuts and bolts, washers, rivets, adjustments, steps, lock washers and various screws used in the trade. Just when the season is coming in again, they pack these off to England at very low prices and start their automatic machines on the ordinary cycle parts just in time for their markets. By doing this they not only keep the best of their workmen together, but make profits while the English firms are idle. No maker in Birmingham can deny that ninety per cent. of the smaller parts come from America and Germany. English firms have plants just the same, and if they would go in for making these things in the winter, they would make a small profit, then, when the season comes in, they have not so much lost time to pull up. I should like to point out that there is a vast quantity of American hubs and pedals sold in Birmingham even at the present time."

### COOLGARDIE EXPOSITION.

The following circular, relative to next year's exposition in Coolgardie, West Australia, has been issued by President Hugh Craig, of the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, who is also acting as special commissioner for the United States :

"It has been decided to hold an international mining and industrial exhibition in Coolgardie, the principal city of the Western Australian gold fields, and suitable buildings are being erected, ready for March 21, 1899.

"The scope of the Exhibition, which was at first intended to